

Freshman Honor's English

Welcome! We hope you are off to a great start this summer. Hopefully you can take some time to relax and build some energy before we meet in August. As it looks right now, your Honors English class will be taught by either Robert Munson or Ashley Ingle. Both teachers would like you to prepare for the first week of class by completing the following assignment. If you have questions, please use both e-mail contacts listed below. One of the teachers will get back to you as soon as possible. Happy Reading!

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Ashley Ingle: Alngle@WashoeSchools.net

Summer Assignment: Choice Novel and Book Talk

Goal: Your summer assignment is to choose a novel to read and interact with, and then prepare a “book talk” when you return in the fall. Ideally, you will pick a novel that is at or slightly above your current reading level, and it must offer a diverse perspective or point of view, different from your own. This allows you to expand on your understanding of different people or cultures and report on those observations, insights, or interactions during your talk.

Requirements:

1. Appropriate/challenging reading level
2. Parent/Guardian approval
3. The book's main character must be different from you (IN AT LEAST ONE WAY) in regards to:
 - Gender
 - Ability
 - Religion
 - Ethnicity/Race/Culture
 - Socio-Economic Status

Assignment: You will need to complete reading this novel over the course of the summer. You have two assignments to prepare.

1. **Reading Journal:** This journal should be completed as you read. You should identify different interactions you are having, observations you are making, questions that are rising, and insights or evaluations you are having. **THIS NOT A SUMMARY LOG. This should allow us to see YOUR interaction and thinking as you read the novel.** You should have **SIX** entries and each should be nearly a page long. **This is due on the first day of class when school begins.**

2. **Book Talk:** This will be a 5-6 minute talk that you will deliver to the class. Though specifics will be explained the first week of school, you can count on having to provide a limited plot outline, a collection of insights and thoughts you have about the book and the culture you were exposed to, a short analysis of the writer's craft, as well as your opinion and evaluation of the piece. We will discuss this assignment in detail and sign up for presentations during the first week of school.

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Novel Suggestions: Again, please select a novel that lines up with your family's values. Some of the novels below have some challenging material (violence, abuse, death, etc) and you will need to make an appropriate choice – please discuss your choice with your family. You may use this list for guidance, but you may choose any book that satisfies the expectations outlined above, even if it isn't on this list.

Louise Erdrich—*Love Medicine* (Native American)

Arthur Golden—*Memoirs of a Geisha* (Japanese)

David Guterson—*Snow Falling on Cedars* (Japanese—American)

Barbara Kingsolver—*The Poisonwood Bible* (White American but occurs in Africa)

Adeline Yen Mah-- *Chinese Cinderella* (Chinese)

Chaim Potok—*The Chosen* (Jewish)

Sherman Alexie—*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Native American)

Ishmael Beah—*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (African)

Susan Monk Kidd—*The Secret Life of Bees* (African American)

Jhumpa Lahiri—*The Namesake* (Indian American)

Gene Luen Yang-- *American Born Chinese* (Chinese American)

Khalen Hosseini—*The Kite Runner* (Afghanistan)

John Steinbeck—*Of Mice and Men*

Bryce Courtenay—*The Power of One* (South African)

Naoki Higashida—*The Reason I Jump* (Autism)

Temple Grandin—*Thinking in Pictures* (Autism)

RJ Palacio—*Wonder* (Physical Deformity)

Markus Zusak—*The Book Thief* (Jewish)

Anthony Doerr—*All the Light We Cannot See* (WWII – War)

Toni Morrison—*The Bluest Eye* (Physical Appearance)

Richard Wright—*Native Son* (African American)

Cristina Henríquez—*The Book of Unknown Americans* (Immigrant)

Enjoy your novel. Soak it in. Think about it. Talk about it. Reflect on it. And be ready to share when we come together as a class in August!