

Freshman Honors Summer Reading

Over the summer, you are required to read TWO books. The first is Black Boy by Richard Wright, the other you will choose from the list on the back of this sheet. Because you will need to be familiar with these texts, especially Black Boy, it is recommended that you take notes on the characters, themes, and plot of the books. It is also recommended that you keep a list of questions you have regarding the text so we may address these upon your return to school in August. Finally, **you are required to complete an assignment for each book which is to be turned in on the first day of school.**

During the first week of classes, you will be required to answer an essay prompt in relation to your summer reading. This serves two purposes:

1. As a means of assessing your reading comprehension and to ensure that the assigned reading was completed
2. As a sample of your writing ability for your English teacher

To be sure that you get the title you are interested in, go to the library early in the summer to pick up your book. You may, of course, purchase the books or even split the cost with a friend. Whatever method you choose, be sure to select books that are of interest to you and also ones that you have not read before. The list offers something from almost every genre as well as a variety of reading levels.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

Black Boy Assignment

1. You must write a three page reaction to the novel highlighting what you liked, didn't like, (this is honors be sure to back up what you say with SPECIFIC examples from the text! - quotes are always a good thing!), what should be modified or altered to enhance the text, as well as what you believe to be the overall theme of the novel as portrayed by the author. **This must be typed, size 12 Times New Roman Font, 1 inch margins.**

Other Book Assignment

1. You will create a pamphlet for your book which includes the following information:
 - a. Title and author of the book
 - b. Brief summary
 - c. Characters
 - d. Themes
 - e. 5 quotes that represent the theme of the book *Note in order to cite quotes you put the actual words in quotation marks, before the first word and after the last, then you list in parentheses the author's last name and the page number the quote is found on, and then finally after the parentheses the period.
 - i. ex. "Man serves the interests of no creatures except himself. All men are enemies. All animals are comrades" (Orwell 7).
 - f. Some type of illustration, picture, or representation to give the pamphlet a visual element.

Freshman Honors Summer Reading Selections

Along with the novel Black Boy by Richard Wright, read one of the following titles. It is recommended that you research the titles and authors to see if you are interested in the book before going to the store. Choose a book that interests you, not what looks easy or what your friends read.

Watership Down by Richard Adams

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Catalyst by Laurie Halse

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Feed by M.T. Anderson

Big Mouth & Ugly Girl by Joyce Carol Oates

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

The Chosen by Chaim Potek

Postcards From No Man's Land
by Aidan Chambers

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher

Taste of Salt: A Story of Modern Hatti
by Frances Temple

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World
by Jennifer Armstrong

Siddhartha by Herman Hesse

The Autobiography of Malcolm X
by Malcolm X

Miscellaneous Information

Coming into Freshman Honors English is a big change from Eighth Grade English. There is much more writing, longer writing, in-depth literary analysis of readings, and independent reading and projects that are not monitored by the teacher. Further you can expect homework every night in my class as well as over school vacations. This will mostly be in the form of reading, 15 -20 pages a night. You will be taking lots of pop-quizzes focused on the details of the reading assignments, as well as the analytical information associated with a story.

You will be expected to meet every deadline that I give you. An honors student doesn't make excuses; he/she gets the work done. There is no room for failure in my class. These summer reading assignments are the first grades that you will be earning in this class. If you don't come to class on the first day of school with these assignments completed, then this may not be the class for you as you will have already missed the first deadline. You are making an impression with these assignments, so I am expecting great things from my future students.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer and Good Luck with the readings!