

2021 Summer Reading Assignment for Honors English I

Step 1: Choose **ONE** of the texts below to read and analyze for your summer reading assignment. The book can be purchased used or new online at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, other bookstores, or it can be borrowed from your local library:

1. *A Time to Dance* By Padma Venkatraman: Veda, a classical dance prodigy in India-lives and breathes dance; so when an accident leaves her a below-knee amputee, her dreams are shattered. This is a stunning novel about spiritual awakening, the power of art, and above all, the courage and resilience of the human spirit.
2. *Everything I Never Told You* By Celeste Ng: A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing, *Everything I Never Told You* is a gripping page-turner, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives to understand one another.
*Trigger/Content Warnings: Depression, Suicide
3. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* By Benjamin Alire Saenz: This Printz Honor Book is a “tender, honest exploration of identity” (Publishers Weekly) that distills lyrical truths about family, friendship, and oneself, and the kind of person he or she wants to be. *Trigger/Content Warnings: Homophobia, PTSD
4. *Beartown* By Fredrick Backman: This #1 *New York Times* bestselling author explores the hopes that bring a small community together, the secrets that tear it apart, and the courage it takes for an individual to go against the grain. In this story of a small forest town, Fredrik Backman has found the entire world.
*Trigger Warning: Sexual violence

Step 2: Read the book you chose and enjoy it! Keep in mind that you will be most able to enjoy your book if you read it over the course of about two weeks. Remember that reading is like watching a good T.V. series: if you want to connect with the characters and the conflict, you can't take too many breaks between episodes. Otherwise, you'll forget important details and lose interest.

Step 3: Using the attached graphic organizer and the model below for reference:

1. Choose and answer **TEN** questions from the lettered questions below.
2. On the left side of the graphic organizer, include the letter associated with the question you are answering. For example, if you want to discuss the writer's purpose, you should put 'A' in the box so that it is clear your evidence and analysis support the question regarding “writer's purpose.”
3. In the middle, include properly cited evidence from the book that supports your answer to each question. You may choose to directly quote or paraphrase/summarize. For example, “I believe in you!” (Tennison 5) or The principal said he believed his students (Tennison 5) are both acceptable.
4. On the right side of your journal, analyze the significance of your evidence and respond to your question. Be thoughtful about answering the question and address each part. Use your evidence to support your overall points.

Questions:

- A. What is the writer's purpose? What does he/she/they hope to accomplish?
- B. Who is the author's intended audience? Does he/she/they reach them adequately?
- C. How does the main character change over the course of the novel? Do they progress, regress, or stay the same?
- D. How do the secondary characters matter in the story? Do they matter on their own or are they there to affect the main character?
- E. How does the setting (the location, time period) influence the story? Did the author pick the appropriate setting? How does the setting increase conflict?
- F. Did you like the ending? Was it appropriate? Was it too happy, too dark, just right? What might you change?
- G. What is the most beautiful quote from the whole novel? What makes this phrase so gorgeous? How is it poetic?
- H. Which piece of dialogue/conversation is most authentic? Does it sound like people in real life? How does it reflect these characters in a real way?
- I. Which scene most stood out in your mind? What images stick out? Which elements would be included if there was a movie?
- J. Choose a character. What is their major struggle throughout the novel? Why? Do they overcome it by the end?
- K. Does anything in the novel remind you of your life? How so? Is it exactly the same or somehow different?
- L. Choose a particularly hard to read passage and identify a few words that you don't understand. What do these words mean? Why do you think the author chose such complicated words? Could he/she/they have substituted them for more simple ones?
- M. Does the author use 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person perspective? Why do you think the author chose that? How does it enhance the story to be told that way?
- N. What is a central theme prevalent throughout the novel? What is the author saying *about* this theme? What does he/she/they try to convey to the reader?
- O. Formulate your own question. Ask something about the book that hasn't been listed above. Make sure it's complex enough to justify a complex answer.

Assignment Expectations

1. There must be a total of 10 quote-analysis combos.
2. Analysis must be **three- six** sentences **ONLY**.
3. Quotes must be gathered throughout the novel (i.e. if all of your quotes are from the first several pages, you will not receive credit).
4. Respond to **ten** different questions.
5. You should type out your responses by using the "Summer Reading Journal Template provided. Open the "Summer Reading Journal Template" > Choose "File" > "Make a Copy." From here, you will be able to edit that document and turn it in to your teacher when you return to school.
6. You will not be evaluated based on spelling or grammar, but please try to be clear in your writing.
7. You may use 1st person perspective: I, me, we, our, us

Rubric

| 5- CRITICAL READER | 4-CONNECTED READER | 3- THOUGHTFUL READER | 2-LITERAL READER | 1- LIMITED READER |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Your response is detailed and elaborate | Your response is adequately detailed | Your response is somewhat detailed | Your response is simple and factual | Your response is basic and contains little or no detail |
| You create your own meaning through personal connections and references to other texts | You create your own meaning through personal connections and experiences | You make connections to your own experience, but you do not thoroughly explain them | You make a few connections to the text, but your ideas lack detail and development | You make few if any connections to the text, and your ideas lack development |
| You analyze the text thoughtfully and relate the parts back to the whole, explaining what the text says, what it means, AND how it depicts this specific meaning | You are able to draw inferences from the text, not only knowing what the text says, but also what it means | You know what the text says and have some ideas about what it means | You know what the text says but are confused about what it means | You have difficulty with what the text says |
| You thoughtfully choose and use strong, relevant evidence to support your point | You choose and use relevant evidence to support your point | You use evidence from the text that is somewhat related to your response | You use some evidence, but it is not related to your response | You do not use specific evidence from the text. |
| You met ALL written expectations (10 quote analysis combos, 3-6 sentences in length, responded to ten questions, etc.) | You met most of the written assignment expectations | You met some of the written assignment expectations | You met few of the written assignment expectations | You did not meet any of the assignment expectations |

Freshman Summer Reading Journal (Example/Model) *Please note: This model only depicts 5 out of the 10 required quote-analysis combos.

Name: Nick Locke

Teacher: Mr. Nietzsche

Book: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

| <u>Question Letter</u> | <u>Evidence</u> | <u>Analysis</u> |
|------------------------|---|---|
| C | The title of the first chapter is "The Boy Who Lived" (Rowling 1). While the final chapter concerns Harry overcoming his main enemy, Professor Quirrell. | To begin with, Harry doesn't know anything about his wizarding life. He is manipulated by the Dursleys and treated like garbage. He starts his life by just "living" instead of living passionately. By the end of the novel, he defeats his enemy, makes friends, and is introduced to the wizarding world. |
| D | Hermione says, "I hope you're pleased with yourselves. We could have been all killed — or worse, expelled" (Rowling 83). | Hermione is an amazing foil character to Harry and Ron. She is highly intelligent, logical, and thoughtful in contrast to these two hot-head characters. In this instance, she humorously worries about the boys during a duel and the possibility of them being "expelled" over being "killed". She influences and is influenced by Ron and Harry—she becomes more risk-taking while the boys learn to be more reasonable. |
| G | Voldemort says, "There is no good and evil, there is only power and those too weak to seek it" (Rowling 202). | Here, Rowling shows the reader a truly poetic line about the reasoning of those that are fundamentally evil. Voldemort doesn't believe "good and evil" exist and instead believes in a world of power and weakness. From his worldview, there is no morality, only people who are afraid of power. This is the rationale of dictators and maniacs, and while I don't agree with it, I think it's beautifully accurate. |
| K | "Hagrid: Harry -- yer a wizard. Harry: I'm a what?" (Rowling 33). | The conversation about being a wizard between Harry and Hagrid makes me think about Lane Tech. I studied very hard and took many tests to get into Lane. I'm excited about this new opportunity, but also a little scared about what challenges it might bring. I just hope I'm placed in any house but Slytherine. |
| N | "Your mother died to save you...To have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever" (Rowling 198). | A central theme throughout the novel is love. Harry craves to return to a time of parental love even though he feels like they abandoned him. He receives this closure at the end of the novel as he learns that his mother "died to save" him and that her love persists beyond the grave. He gains these powers and is able to defeat Voldemort because of his knowledge about love, friendship, and cooperation. |