

Honors English 12  
Ms. Ferrone

### **Honors English 12 Summer Reading Assignment**

One of the objectives of Honors English 12 is that you will learn to analyze literature from various cultures – including our own – in order to consider abstract ideas about values, beliefs, priorities, and cultural systems. You will compare and contrast these cultures based on these aspects. You will be expected to open your mind toward others' views, to see things from unique perspectives, and to challenge your own perceptions.

*Your summer reading assignment reflects these goals.*

As students entering your final year of high school English, I expect you are already reading all the time. For that reason, and the fact that it is summer, I want to leave some of the choice of what you read this summer up to you. All I ask is that you read something contemporary and of literary value (either fiction or non-fiction).

*What does that mean, you ask?*

Novels and books of literary merit are often identified by scholars and writers who use myriad criteria by which to judge whether a book is notable in some way. These people consider aspects like the style and quality of writing, the nature of the topic and themes, and the originality of the work.

One of the sources that feature notable contemporary books of literary merit is The New York Times. Each week The Times features a list of bestselling **hardcover fiction and non-fiction**. This is one of the lists from which you could choose a summer reading book for this year. You are not limited to choosing only from this week's list. A book from any of the hardcover fiction or non-fiction lists that have been published in the NYTimes in the last year is acceptable. I suggest also using the The New York Times' Sunday Book Review section to read reviews of the books before making your selection. Other lists that feature books of literary merit include, Pulitzer Prize winner lists, The National Book Award list, the Pen/Faulkner list, and the Man Booker Award list. All of these lists can be accessed online.

If you are choosing a non-fiction reading book, PLEASE do not choose a memoir, autobiography or biography at this time. There will be an opportunity to read a memoir, autobiography or biography first quarter of the school year.

The bookstores and libraries on the Island (including the MVRHS library) have copies of books to purchase or borrow. The CLAMS library network of which the Island libraries are a part, also allow you to download books for free onto a Kindle device. **It is up to you to get whatever book you choose**. If there is some extenuating circumstance that may prevent you from purchasing or borrowing a book, please let me know as soon as possible.

I would like NO MORE THAN TWO students reading the same book. How will you know who is reading what? You must post your choice to the Google Classroom Summer Reading Honors English 12-2017 web page that has been created for you. You can join this “class” by entering the following class code: d4s3d01

**Please post your choice as soon as possible or by August 1st at the latest.**

## **Honors English 12 Summer Reading Assignment: Guidelines for Note-Taking**

To ensure that you read actively, I ask that you keep a written record of your thoughts, reactions and ideas about the text as you read. These notes will be used to complete an assignment you will receive when you enter class in September. This assignment will require that you show, in some way, your understanding of and engagement with your chosen summer reading book.

### FICTION NOTE-TAKING GUIDELINES

**If you choose a fiction reading, you should do the following assignment (due on the first day of class). This assignment will be integrated into your portfolio grade, but will also count as a homework grade.**

As you carefully read your fiction choice, keep a list of “big idea” topics that arise in the book. For example, forgiveness and dreams are big idea topics (but are not the only options – merely examples). As you keep your list, you should also note instances of those topics in the text and record page numbers and quotations, **as well as an explanation for that quotation.** The explanation should address how that particular instant connects to the “big idea.”

You should aim to keep track of 2-3 “big idea” topics and your notes should include, at minimum, five examples of that topic in the text (better is to include all the examples of that topic – the number of which will vary, depending on the topic/book).

You may find it helpful to keep a chart, like this (it would be expected that you would find multiple instances of a topic, if it is a “big idea,” so it is up to you how you would like to arrange your notes – either chronologically or by topic):

### SUMMER READING TOPIC NOTES

Topic – the big idea topic you have inferred	Page # - page number(s) for the topic and quote or plot detail. <b>(A quotation need not be copied completely – the first phrase will suffice, so long as you can find that passage later.)</b>	Explanation – WHY/HOW does this particular quote or plot detail reflect the “big idea”? What does it suggest about that big idea?
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NON-FICTION NOTE-TAKING GUIDELINES

As you carefully read your non-fiction choice, keep a journal on your thoughts as you read.

You should aim to take note of your responses throughout the book and your notes should include, at minimum, at least one thought for every 20 pages of the text (better is to include all your thoughts as you read – the number of which will vary, depending on your book).

SUMMER READING DOUBLE-ENTRY JOURNAL NOTES

<p>In the <b>left column</b>, what you learned or what provoked your thinking as you were reading. <b>Include page numbers.</b></p> <p>Possibilities include:</p> <p>Notes, Quotations, Summaries, Main Ideas, Facts/Concepts/Evidence, Illustrations, Questions, Responses to specific questions, Descriptions</p> <p>The quotations could be: a passage that strikes you in some way, something you question or don't understand, something you agree or disagree with, or something to which you connect.</p> <p><b>(A quotation need not be copied completely – the first phrase will suffice, so long as you can find that passage later.)</b></p>	<p>In the <b>right column</b>, write <b>your reaction</b> to that quote.</p> <p><i>This is where you keep track of what the voice in your head is saying as you read.</i></p> <p>The right hand side should be your thoughts. Possibilities include:</p> <p>Immediate reactions; Reactions after learning something new; Answers to questions; What more you would like to learn; Why you agree or disagree; What you understand or don't understand; Comparisons or contrasts; Connections to other sources or ideas; Your interpretation; Observations, Perspectives. The overriding question to consider as you respond is, <b>“Why is this an important idea, quote, question and how does it support the central argument of the text?”</b></p> <p><i>It is NOT summary, but analysis, so length of response to a particular idea, quote, or question will vary.</i></p>
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**Please complete no more than three pages of TYPED notes. (Use 12 point font and don't double-space).**

**If you choose a non-fiction reading, you should do the following assignment (due on the first day of class). This assignment will be integrated into your portfolio grade, but will also count as a homework grade.**

### **JOURNAL/NOTE TAKING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

<p><b>CHECK +:</b> The journal and/or notes show a sophisticated understanding and engagement with the text. Commentary is supported by apt textual evidence and reflects insightful thinking.</p> <p>Student completed three pages of notes.</p>	<p><b>CHECK:</b> The journal and/or notes show understanding and engagement with the text and some insightful commentary. Commentary is supported by textual evidence.</p> <p>Student completed at least 2-3 pages of notes.</p>	<p><b>CHECK -:</b> The journal/note-taking shows weak understanding and minimal engagement with the text. Commentary is not well-supported and reflects more summary than insight. Student completed two or less pages.</p>
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If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment or the course in general, please feel free to ask me before you leave for summer vacation.

Happy reading! Have a wonderful summer!

Sites where you can find lists of great books:

<http://www.pulitzer.org>

<http://www.nationalbook.org>

<http://themanbookerprize.com>

<http://www.penfaulkner.org/>

[https://www.nytimes.com/books/best-sellers/hardcover-nonfiction/?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/books/best-sellers/hardcover-nonfiction/?_r=0)

<https://www.nytimes.com/books/best-sellers/hardcover-fiction/>

**REMEMBER:** If you are choosing from the NYTimes lists, only choose from the **HARDCOVER** fiction or nonfiction. You may also choose from anything that has appeared on the **HARDCOVER** lists from the last year. (Many of these will now be in paperback).

Lastly, the librarians at any of the local libraries as well as the booksellers at the bookstores on the Island are also great resources for recommendations, etc.

