

Junior Honors English: Summer Reading 2018-2019

THE ASSIGNMENT:

Welcome to Junior Honors English! In order to prepare for beginning of the year discussions on argument and rhetoric, I'd like for you to choose and read a nonfiction book this summer that you've never read before.

Not sure what to choose? Start with what you like. You have a lot of freedom here, so use this as an opportunity to learn more about something you're interested in. A memoir about a musician or tech entrepreneur, an examination of an aspect of your favorite sport, an argument about one of your passions -- any of these would work.

Know that the best options for this assignment will have a clear argument about an idea. Try sampling the introduction on Amazon first, and if you're not clear about the author's point of view about the topic, if it seems to be closer to a list of facts, or if it seems to be a story without some larger purpose or argument, try something else.

Consider visiting Amazon's top list of nonfiction books, *The New York Times* best sellers list, or Goodreads's Best Nonfiction Books of the past years. I've included a list of books on the back that you might like to learn more about and would work for this assignment, too.

Not sure if a book will work? Send Ms. Lobb an email this summer at ylobb@d127.org.

EXPECTATIONS:

There isn't a written component to this reading assignment, but while you read, I expect you to read actively. In other words, you should be marking important passages, summarizing ideas in your own words, looking up information that's unfamiliar to you, and asking questions about the author's intent or how ideas relate to one another.

Actively reading in this way will set you up for success in the beginning of the year. As you choose and mark important passages, consider moments when the author most clearly reveals his or her argument. Also consider passages in which he or she uses a particularly engaging metaphor to explain an example, when the language interests you, when you personally connect to an example, or when you disagree with an example.

SUMMER READING ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

In summary, I'd like you to ask yourself the following question as you read:

- How can I become an active reader of nonfiction texts?
- What is the author's argument? How can I summarize it in my own words?
- How does an author use multiple stylistic or persuasive techniques (such as word choice, metaphor, appeal to emotion) to support his or her argument?
- How does tone help to reinforce an author's argument?
- How does an author's structure help to craft an effective argument?
- How can I use my own argumentative skills to agree or disagree with an author's argument?
- How can reading help me to see my world in a new way?

SAMPLE NONFICTION BOOKS

(Remember: you can choose something that's not on this list. Books with an *asterisk* are D127 School Board approved)

- *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life* by William Finnegan
- **Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Blink, The Tipping Point, or Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal:* by Eric Schlosser
- *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
- *Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bissinger
- *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- **Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
- *My Green Manifesto: Down the Charles River in Search of a New Environmentalism* by David Gesner
- **The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore
- *Something Like the Gods: A Cultural History of the Athlete from Achilles to Lebron* by Stephen Amidon
- *Thank You for Your Service* by David Finkel
- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain
- *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed