

Grayslake North Summer Reading 2020: Freshman Honors English

Welcome to Freshman Honors English! The freshman teachers are looking forward to working with you this coming school year. We would like to help you make an excellent start in high school by keeping your reading skills sharp. To accomplish this, over the summer you are to read one nonfiction work from the list below. While we are only requiring you to read one book, we recommend that you read much more. One study on reading indicates that to maintain and possibly improve your reading skills, you should read at least four novels over the summer.

Choices (CHOOSE ONE):

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Summary from Amazon.com:

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local people. At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater

Summary from Amazon.com:

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

Summary from Amazon.com:

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals

Summary from Amazon.com:

In 1957, well before Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.

Assignment:

- Divide your chosen book into **ten** even sections. For each section of reading, you will complete a digital journal entry.
- Create an online journal using *Google Docs* - title each journal entry clearly
Example: **Journal Entry #1** (bolded titles)
- **Each entry must:**
 - Be at least 10 complete sentences (quoted material not included)
 - Quote and cite at least **2 passages** from the section of the book
 - Follow the guidelines below:

Journal Entry One: (don't forget to include 2 cited quotes - not included in the 10 sentences)

- After reading the first 1/10 of the book, what are your impressions so far? Do you feel like this book is a good fit for your preferred type of reading? What do you predict will happen later in the book?

Journal Entry Two through Nine - Choose from these below-you must choose **all** of these at one point and will obviously need to use some of these topics more than once.

(don't forget to include 2 cited quotes - not included in the 10 sentences)

- Discuss how this author appeals to the reader's emotions in this section.
- Discuss how the author's use of facts/statistics/logical arguments convinces the reader to feel a particular way
- Discuss how the author proves himself/herself a credible source (why should you believe the author/trust the author/be able to relate to the author?)
- Discuss one particular aspect of the author's writing style that interests you. This could be the use of a certain writing device (simile, metaphor, imagery, etc). It might be the use of irony, the way the book is structured, the point of view.
- Discuss what this section taught you about struggles that others face because of their race, gender, background, etc

Journal Entry Ten: End of book (don't forget to include 2 cited quotes - not included in the 10 sentences)

- What was your reaction to this text? Did you connect with anything directly?
- Is there something that really made you think or convinced you of something?
- What was the author's intention - why did they *want* people to read this book or understand their story?

Assessment:

Your **Digital Journal** for the choice summer novel will count as the first major grade for the year. Please come prepared to submit your journal and discuss the choice novel on the *first day of class*.

****This is your first assignment of the year. 10% per day will be deducted for each day that this assignment is late.****

If you have any questions over the summer, you can email one of the Fr. English Honors teachers:

- Mrs. Fisherkeller: cfisherkeller@d127.org
- Mrs. Kopecky: akopecky@d127.org