

Sophomore Honors English – Summer Reading Assignment Grayslake North High School Summer 2020

State Standards:

- Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency
- Analyze and defend an interpretation of text
- Evaluate character development and character relationships in a unique setting

Key Question:

- What is the nature of humanity, and from where does the capacity to do both good and evil originate?

Welcome to Sophomore English Honors! The thematic focus of this course is human nature and the capacity to do both good and evil. To begin your exploration of that focus, you are to read one of the works below. Beyond an introduction to the thematic emphasis of the course, this assignment will demonstrate how you read. It should make you more conscious of the elements of the work in preparation for the analytical activities in the course, and it will increase your repertoire for possible future AP English courses. Close reading is a vital component of this course, and this will be your first foray into reading at the sophomore honors level.

Summer Reading Works (choose one book you've never read before):

Code Talkers by Joseph Bruchac – Historical fiction tells the story of a Navajo Code Talker who joined the Army during WWII to send coded messages in his native language.

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng - Elena Richardson is accustomed to structure and rules. When Mia, a hippie-ish artist moves to town, it threatens everything that Mrs. Richardson has come to believe.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas – Starr Carter's life goes between two worlds: the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives, and the rich, mostly white private school she attends. Can Starr find a balance between the two?

Assignment:

Please purchase a copy of your text because you will need to annotate it for statements regarding the nature of humanity. You will utilize these annotations and your knowledge of the text to complete various assignments, including a full essay, during the first week of school. "Online" annotations or comments are fine.

Assessments:

1. Plan to write a timed, in-class essay on your text during the first week
2. You will be graded on quantity and quality of annotations
3. You will complete a creative project with a group during the first two weeks of the semester