

Honors English II Summer Reading 2020-2021

To be successful in Honors English II you must grasp not only how literature has changed throughout time, but also understand the choices writers make in this context. This will be your first opportunity to explore how writers have chosen diverse methods to communicate their messages.

Here's the assignment(s): read the books. Then,

- A. Be prepared to write a paper (during class in September) analyzing HOW the narrative can be constructed to not only entertain, but to argue, and/or inform. Discuss how each of the authors whose books you read use narrative as a tool to inform and/or persuade the reader.
- B. Be prepared to incorporate ideas and concepts, as well as personal responses, into syntheses throughout the school year. Therefore keep track of your thoughts and reactions to what you read.

How can you “prepare” to write? Here are some possibilities that will help you capture an issue in each book:

- Annotate your book (post-its?) with reactions, connections, and interpretations to issues that the book raises (as opposed to randomly underlining or highlighting passages--if you don't note in the margin *why* you've underlined or highlighted that passage, there's no point in highlighting it!).
- Create end-of-chapter summaries or reactions, perhaps with a key line, correctly cited.
- Write a reflection of the book that identifies an issue being explored and the author's take on it (do this right after you read while it's fresh in your mind).
- Devise your own method or use a method that already works for you.

You will not submit this prep work; we will not evaluate it. It is intended to help you on the writings described above. You need to know your book--way beyond what the book jacket says, or what's been said about it online. So, how you prepare for this is up to you--the above bullet points are suggestions. So, you don't need to email us--make a choice about how to prepare to write about your summer reading.

Book Selections - READ BOTH

Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese*

Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with another immigrant. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he's in love with an all-American girl.

Douglas Adams' and Mark Carwardine's *Last Chance to See*

Adams is joined by zoologist Mark Carwardine, as they use their last chance to see a variety of animals on the brink of extinction, such as the Komodo Dragon, the White Rhinos of Zaire, New Zealand kakapos, and Yangtze river dolphins.

We also suggest that you participate in WHS Summer Reading Enrichment. Because you love reading. That's why you're taking Honors English, right? Questions? First, reread the instructions above, and then, if you still have questions, email Mr. Welch (welch.junius@tusd.org) or Mrs. Altenberg (Altenberg.Amy@tusd.org).