

West High School Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming English 1 Honors Students

The focus of your reading is to consider this Essential Question: **What is the power of words?**

While considering this question, read the following:

1. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
 - You may either purchase the book in order to be able to annotate in it, or check out a copy from the public library and take notes on a separate paper.
 - Either way, **please bring the book with you to the first day of school and be prepared to have it with you for several weeks.**

2. [An opinion piece by Julia Schemmer](#), a blogger for the Huffington Post
 - “The Power of Words”
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/julia-schemmer/the-power-of-words_b_4516603.html
 - You may print out the article and annotate it or take notes on a separate paper.

3. [An explanatory piece by Josh Wilmoth](#) on HubPages.com
 - “How Was Adolf Hitler So Persuasive?”
<http://joshwilmoth.hubpages.com/hub/Adolf-Hitlers-Tremendous-Persuasive-Ability>
 - You may print out the article and annotate it or take notes on a separate paper.

4. A narrative argument presented in a [TED Talk by novelist Chimamanda Adichie](#)
 - “The Danger of a Single Story”
http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story
 - Watch the video and take notes
 - An interactive transcript is also available on this site if you prefer to use that

5. [A YouTube video](#) posted by an “online content specialist” company
 - “The Power of Words”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzgzim5m7oU>
 - Watch the video and take notes

6. An article of your choice that in some way deals with our essential question.
 - You must print out the article and annotate it
 - On the article provide a proper MLA citation

These materials and your notes will be used and referenced for the first several weeks of the semester in class discussions, in-class writings and formal writings. I will be checking your notes

and the article you chose for #6 on the first day of school. **You will use all of your notes for your first in-class writing on the second or third day of school.**

***You will also be responsible for choosing a historical fiction novel that is at least 200 pages and honors level (see below for suggestions). This book will be used for your first outside reading assignment during the first quarter. Specific instructions for this first outside reading will be given the first week of school. * Make sure to have it read before then.**

Historical fiction presents a story set in the past, often during a significant time period. In historical fiction, the time period is an important part of the setting and often of the story itself.

Historical fiction may include fictional characters, well-known historical figures or a mixture of the two. Authors of historical fiction usually pay close attention to the details of their stories (settings, clothing, dialogue, etc.) to ensure that they fit the time periods in which the narratives take place.

In some historical fiction, famous events appear from points of view not recorded in history, showing historical figures dealing with actual events while depicting them in a way that is not recorded in history. Other times, the historical event or time period complements a story's narrative, forming a framework and background for the characters' lives. Sometimes, historical fiction can be for the most part true, but the names of people and places have been in some way altered.

As you read, identify and take notes on historical facts presented in the story. I recommend placing post-it notes in the book or taking notes in a notebook. Write down the information and the page number on which you found it.

When you are finished reading the book, choose five (5) facts presented in the story to research and actually research them. Find credible sources and read and annotate them.

Additional Reading Options-You are not limited to these:

The Orphan's Tale – Pam Jenoff

The Hate You Give-Angie Thomas

Before We Were Yours- Lisa Wingate

Hamilton and Peggy! A Revolutionary Friendship- L.M. Elliot

These books were published for an adult readership. They address controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and include scenes and language that reflect mature content. Students may choose books other than the ones listed above.