



2009-2010 Pre-AP English I Summer Reading Assignment Whitehouse High School

Welcome to Pre-AP English I. Summer reading is intended to keep you reading through the summer. This course is all about reading and writing and most of all THINKING!

I am asking you to read three books. The first one is “*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*” by Sean Covey. This book has powerful ideas that will help you be successful in high school. I do want you to memorize the 7 habits.

The other books are novels. The first one you might have read, but you will enjoy another read. It is “*The Giver*” by Lois Lowry. We will discuss it extensively, so I need you to be very familiar with the characters and the theme. You will be tested over this book.

Choose your third book from the list below. This book must be annotated.

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| 1. The Secret Life of Bees | Sue Monk Kidd |
| 2. The Power of One* (contains strong language) | Bryce Courtney |
| 3. The Book Thief | Markus Zusak |
| 4. The Uglies | Scott Westerfield |
| 5. Lord of the Rings | J.R.R. Tolkien |
| 6. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings | Maya Angelou |
| 7. Robinson Crusoe | Daniel Defoe |
| 8. A Separate Peace | John Knowles |
| 9. 1984 | George Orwell |
| 10. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich | Alexsander Solzhenitsyn |
| 11. The Joy Luck Club | Amy Tan |
| 12. Brave New World | Alex Huxley |

On the back you will find instructions on how to annotate your novel. This is required because it is an excellent tool for understanding the literary value of the text.

Books we will read during the year include:

<i>Anthem</i>	Ayn Rand
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury
<i>The Odyssey</i>	Homer
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	William Shakespeare

Students will need their own copy of these books. They will be put on order at Barnes and Noble, but feel free to purchase at any bookstore or website.



ANNOTATING A BOOK

While you are reading your chosen book – annotate.

Annotate means mark key passages in the book that make you think, question, or provoke a strong reaction. Underline the part of the text that you are responding to and then mark one of these symbols in the margin. Please use the following symbols to make your annotations more uniform:

⌘ = mark a comma next to a passage that makes you pause and think. This thinking can occur because you made a connection with the text, you like the writer's style, or for any other reason that made you pause and **THINK** while reading.

❓ = mark a question mark next to a passage that makes you question. This question can stem from confusion, but it can also be a question that you want to explore further (you already know the answer, but you want to see what others think.)

! = mark an exclamation mark next to a passage that makes you think "WOW!" This means that you've had a strong reaction to the story because you can't believe an event just happened or you laugh out loud.

[] = mark brackets around a character's name the first time it appears in the text. (You only have to bracket the character's name once). At the top of the page, write a brief description of the character to help you keep track.

O = circle unfamiliar words.

FS = This stands for foreshadowing, which means that a clue is given about an event that will happen in the future.

Any time that you think an event is being foreshadowed, mark FS.

Some tips about annotations:

- Annotations are meant to *slow down* your reading but not hinder it. It is important to absorb the book and **THINK** about what you are reading; these codes will guide you through this.
- How much should you be annotating? I think you should have at least one symbol marked on each page; some pages will have more and some will have less.
- If you want to add more codes or write more notes in your margins, this is fine by me! But please use these codes so that we can all be consistent.
- Annotating is a **SKILL** that is taught on every level of the AP English program. We will annotate the books that we read. It might be awkward at first, but you will get use to it, and it will become second nature to you.

I will check your annotations for a grade. ***Please bring your book on the first day of class.***

Happy Reading,

Mrs. McFarlin