



Summer Reading: 9th Grade – Summer, 2018

You will read two books this summer for English 9. In order to read closely for understanding, you are required to annotate as you read. As with all of the work you do for this class, your summer reading annotations and notes must be your own. **Please purchase paper copies of the books.** Do NOT use e-books. You **must** have a copy of the books to use during the first weeks of school since there will be assignments, activities, and/or discussions concerning both texts.

In addition to annotating both texts, you will do the following for the required book (*A Lesson Before Dying*):

- Select three important passages (one from the first third of the book, one from the second third, and one from the final third).
- Write each passage with the page number following it.
- Write a thoughtful, well-developed response to each, explaining why you selected this passage.
- **Bring a hard copy of this assignment to class on the first day of school.**

****Please type these, write in complete sentences, and proofread carefully.**

Everybody reads:

Ernest Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying* (Amazon.com)

In a small Cajun community in 1940s Louisiana, a young black man is about to go to the electric chair for murder. A white shopkeeper had died during a robbery gone bad; though the young man on trial had not been armed and had not pulled the trigger, in that time and place, there could be no doubt of the verdict or the penalty. This award-winning novel tells of the relationship forged between a young black man on death row and his teacher in 1940s Louisiana.

Also, choose one from the following list:

Tracy Chevalier, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (Amazon.com)

With precisely thirty-five canvases to his credit, the Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer represents one of the great enigmas of 17th-century art. The meager facts of his biography have been gleaned from a handful of legal documents. Yet Vermeer's extraordinary paintings of domestic life, with their subtle play of light and texture, have come to define the Dutch golden age. His portrait of the anonymous *Girl with a Pearl Earring* has exerted a particular fascination for centuries--and it is this magnetic painting that lies at the heart of Tracy Chevalier's second novel of the same title.

Arthur Clarke, *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Amazon.com)

When an enigmatic monolith is found buried on the moon, scientists are amazed to discover that it's at least three million years old. Even more amazing, after it's unearthed, the artifact releases a powerful signal aimed at Saturn. What sort of alarm has been triggered? To find out, a manned spacecraft, the *Discovery*, is sent to investigate. Its crew is highly trained--the best--and they are assisted by a self-aware computer, the ultra-capable HAL 9000. But HAL's programming has been patterned after the human mind a little too well. He is capable of guilt, neurosis, even murder, and he controls every single one of *Discovery's* components. The crew must overthrow this digital psychotic if they hope to make their rendezvous with the entities that are responsible not just for the monolith, but maybe even for human civilization.

Alexander Dumas, *The Count of Monte Cristo* (Amazon.com)

This novel tells the story of Edmond Dantes, wrongfully imprisoned for life in the supposedly impregnable sea fortress, the Chateau d'If. After a daring escape and after unearthing a hidden treasure revealed to him by a fellow prisoner, he devotes the rest of his life to tracking down and punishing the enemies who wronged him. This is a delicious book, full of intrigue, great fight scenes, love, passion, and witty social satire.

You may use the abridged version (over 500 pages) or the unabridged version (over 1,000 pages).



Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club* (Amazon.com)

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949, four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

Tobias Wolff, *This Boy's Life* (Amazon. Com)

This unforgettable memoir, by one of our most gifted writers, introduces us to the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on the move, yet they develop an extraordinarily close, almost telepathic relationship. As Toby fights for identity and self-respect against the unrelenting hostility of a new stepfather, his experiences are at once poignant and comical, and Wolff does a masterful job of re-creating the frustrations and cruelties of adolescence.

Note: Plagiarism

You are required to read each assigned work carefully, thoughtfully, and entirely by the assigned due date. Plagiarism, whether from commercially prepared notes, the Internet, or another student's work, falls under the heading of cheating. Cheating will result in a zero on the assignment and notification of parents. And, yes, even if you change the wording of the material you obtain, it is still plagiarism. The work assigned for this class should be your honest and diligent response to the text(s). Sites such as sparknotes.com and shmoop.com are never to be used for this class for any reason.

If you have any questions regarding your assignment during the summer, you may email me at rbray@keystoneschool.org. I will be out of pocket from June 5 - 21 and from July 7 – 12 but will get back to you ASAP.

Annotating a Text

Annotating is a way of "showing your work" as you read. By connecting to the text, your mind will be actively engaged with the text. In addition, by annotating, you will be able to find important passages quickly to use in discussion or on test questions.

1. Annotating a text involves two steps:

- Marking (By underlining, circling, bracketing, starring, etc., the text)
- Writing marginal notes – commenting on what you have marked and why; asking questions; defining terms; etc.

2. When reading a literary narrative text, ask these three questions to generate annotations:

- What do I notice as I read?
- What questions do I have about what I'm reading?
- What do I like?

What do I notice as I read?

Literary Elements

- Plot structure
- Characters
- Conflict
- Setting
- Point of view
- Flashback & foreshadowing
- Symbols
- Themes
- Irony

Notice and Note Signposts:

- Motifs: Again and again
- Epiphany: “Aha” moment
- Incongruity: Contrasts and contradictions
- Flashback: Memory moment
- Tough questions
- Mentor archetype: Words of the wiser

Writer’s Craft:

- Diction
- Sentence Structure
- Details
- Imagery
- Other?

What questions do I have about what I’m reading?

- What confuses me? Why? What could this mean?
- What information do I still need in order to fully understand?
- What does this word mean? (Look it up. Circle the word and write its definition in the margin.)
- What surprises me and why?

What do I like?

- Well-written passages
- Well-chosen words

- Ideas that resonate with you
- Ideas that make you think, that are enlightening
- Anything that reminds you of something (another work, a personal experience, a memory, events or people in the real world, etc.)

3. At the beginning of each chapter, write a brief summary of what happens in that chapter.

4. You may also want to use the blank pages at the beginning and at the end of the book to make a list of characters, thematic subjects, motifs, key scenes, etc.

****I am interested in the quality of your annotations and want to see “a mind at work.”**

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