

English 11

Summer Reading Assignment

Happy summer and welcome to English 11. I am looking forward to having you in my class this semester! Here are the instructions and expectations for your summer reading assignment. You will also have an in-depth written test or in-class essay over your summer reading assignments the first full week of school.

1. Choose ONE novel from the following list of Pulitzer Prize Winners.

- ***Gilead*** by Marilynne Robinson
- ***The Nickel Boys*** by Colson Whitehead
- ***The Night Watchman*** by Louise Erdrich
- ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*** by Michael Chabon
- ***Demon Copperhead*** by Barbara Kingslover

**Each novel is linked to where you can purchase it on Amazon.

2. Annotated Physical Copy:

All students are required to have their own physical copy of the book and must annotate in the book itself (I.E. mark pages, highlight, make notes/write in the margins etc.)

Annotate (color-coded) for the following topics: (40 total)

- **Blue:** Identity (10 annotations)
 - Moments a character's identity is shaped, challenged, or revealed.
 - Margin question: What forces are shaping this character's identity here and/or what does this moment tell us about their identity?
- **Pink:** American ideals (15 annotations)
 - Moments when themes of American identity are present
 - Justice vs. injustice (race, culture, status, inequality)
 - "The American Dream" (pursuit of success/happiness)
 - Freedom vs. control
 - Individual vs. the whole (personal choices, journey to self discovery, contribution to society)
 - Margin question: What does this moment suggest about America?
- **Green:** Important quotations (15 annotations)
 - Beautiful/impactful imagery (Why is it impactful?)
 - Commentary on society (What is it saying?)
 - Connection to real-life/current events (What does it connect to?)
 - Moral/ethical questions (What does this mean?)
 - Theme statements (What is the author trying to say?)

Disclaimer: You know what is acceptable in your home--please make sure to research appropriately with your parents to ensure that the novel you choose suits what you are comfortable with. Some of these novels may contain mature or heavy content and must be read with maturity.