

Summer Reading Assignment: English 11

for incoming 11th graders



Assignment:

1) **Read** one of the following books:

a) *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what **really** went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

b) *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives* by Dashka Slater

One teenager in a skirt.

One teenager with a lighter.

One moment that changes both of their lives forever.

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

c) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

- 2) Take **thorough** and **detailed notes** on **separate paper** as you read. Your notes must be **handwritten**. They can be bullet pointed, but they must be **organized** and **specific**.
- 3) Your **notes** should focus on one or two characters. Note the ways in which the characters in your book either “play by the rules” of their culture/society or “break the rules” of their culture/society. Keep in mind that many rules are “unwritten.” Consider the consequences (both *good* and *bad*) for each character when he/she follows and/or breaks the rules.
- 4) When you return in September, you will take an **in-class assessment** on the text. You **may use your notes** as you write, but you will **not** be permitted to use the text.

The **100-point** written assessment will be **one of your first grades of English 11**.

* **These books deal with mature issues. If you or your parents have concerns, please contact me before the end of the school year.**

* **You may borrow your book from a library or buy a copy. Regardless, acquire it early so you don't run out of time. If you decide to purchase your book, consider buying a used copy from Amazon or Barnes and Noble.**

Name _____

Date _____

Summer Reading Notes

Directions: As you read, take notes based on steps 2 & 3 of the assignment. Heads up: you may not see both positive AND negative consequences. Then again, you might!. Feel free to take your notes on this paper or on paper of your own. Remember, though, your notes must be handwritten. You may add extra sheets as necessary.

What seems to be the social/cultural “rule?”	
How does this character follow or break the “rule”? Be specific and include page numbers.	
Are there any positive consequences? If so, provide evidence and explain. Be specific and include page numbers.	Are there any negative consequences? If so, provide evidence and explain. Be specific and include page numbers.

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