

English II HN Summer Reading 2017 Learning from Experiences

Lexington School District One Purpose Statement for Honors Summer Reading:

Summer reading offers students an opportunity to enjoy quality literature while growing their independent reading skills. Students demonstrate their abilities through standards-based engagements in comprehension and vocabulary. This self-directed experience will allow students to reinforce skills previously learned and prepare them for future learning.

Throughout the upcoming school year, we will examine themes about humanity and how authors express these themes. To begin the year we will study how people/characters **learn and grow from experiences**. In preparation for this unit you will choose one literary text from the provided list and complete a close reading of significant passages. This assignment will serve as a guide for future formative and summative assessments, but your close reading annotations will not be graded. Please see the attached guide and PowerPoint for annotating a text. **You are responsible for not only reading, but annotating the book as you read.**

A list of titles to choose from is provided for you. Please be sure to choose one you have not previously read. You may choose either a print or digital version of your novel, but you will need to have continued access to it and your notes throughout the year (we do not recommend checking it out of the library because you cannot write in it and you will have to return it).

Please be sure to preview your selections before making a final choice. **Your text will be used frequently in the first unit**, and choosing a novel you are interested in will be most beneficial to you. Also, please note that choosing to view a film or television version of a book or reading a summary of the text instead of reading the full, original novel will present challenges in completing your work during the first unit.

List of Acceptable Titles

The Alchemist-Paulo Coelho

Bless Me, Ultima-Rudolfo Anaya

Empire of the Sun-J.G. Ballard

The Power of One-Bryce Courtenay

Life of Pi-Yann Martel

Climbing the Stairs-Padma Venkatraman

Becoming Naomi Leon- Pam Munoz Ryan

Habibi-Naomi Shihab Nye

Joy Luck Club- Amy Tan

Before We Were Free-Julia Alvarez

If you have questions about the summer reading expectations, please contact one of the English II Honors teachers:

Ashley Davis: adavis@lexington1.net

Dell Simpson: dsimpson@lexington1.net

Jennifer Bentley: jbentley@lexington1.net

Paige Steele: msteele@lexington1.net

Close Reading of a Literary Passage

Use the following questions to help create depth of analysis as you annotate your text. Your annotations will be used in both formative and summative work at the beginning and end of the school year. Please respond to each of these questions *multiple times* throughout the beginning, middle, and end of the text. This can be done in the text itself or in a separate document.

Your annotations should help you answer the following questions:

What is a lesson your protagonist learns?

What theme (s) or main ideas can you identify in the novel?

What life lessons are the characters in the novel learning?

What do you learn about the human experience from the story?

What message does the author express about learning from experiences?

I. First Impressions:

- What is the first thing you notice about the passage?
- What mood does the passage create in you? Why?

II. Vocabulary and Diction:

- Which words do you notice first? Why? What is noteworthy about this diction?
- Do any words have double meanings? Do they have extra connotations?
- Look up any unfamiliar words.

III. Discerning Patterns:

- Could this passage symbolize the entire work? Could this passage serve as a microcosm--a little picture--of what's taking place in the whole work?
- What is the sentence rhythm like? Short and choppy? Long and flowing? Does it build on itself or stay at an even pace? What is the style like?
- Look at the punctuation. Is there anything unusual about it?
- How many types of writing are in the passage? (For example, narration, description, argument, dialogue, rhymed or alliterative poetry, etc.)
- What is left out or kept silent? What would you expect the author to talk about that the author avoided?

IV. Point of View and Characterization:

- How does the passage make us react or think about any characters or events within the narrative?
- Are there colors, sounds, physical description that appeals to the senses? Does this imagery form a pattern? Why might the author have chosen that color, sound or physical description?
- Who speaks in the passage? To whom does he or she speak? Does the narrator have a limited or partial point of view? Or does the narrator appear to be omniscient?

V. Symbolism:

- Are there metaphors? What kinds?
- How might objects represent something else?
- Do any of the objects, colors, animals, or plants appearing in the passage have traditional connotations or meaning? Do they have meanings specific to this text?

VI. Literary Elements:

• Imagery/vivid description • Organization and arrangement of ideas • Speaker's tone and possible tone shifts • Appeals to logic or emotion • Mark places in the text that evoke a reaction from you, be it laughter, anger, or confusion • Major plot events • Text structure (flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, etc.) • Choice of diction • Syntax • Audience • Character development (characters, characterization, character motivation) • Setting(s) • Conflict