

Portage Northern High School

Honors English 10

Required Summer Reading

Dear future Honors English 10 students,

All of our English courses at PNHS are college and career-preparatory. Honors 10 provides an additional level of challenge for learners who are passionate about and committed to challenging themselves in the English classroom. Students who are resistant to reading and writing will likely find this course demanding or overwhelming-- please consider both when choosing to undertake Honors English. We read difficult literature at a brisk pace; there will be required reading and/or writing each night, and late work is only acceptable under exceptional circumstances. The course is intended to challenge a student's sense of organization and work ethic throughout the year. In addition, there are numerous formal public speaking requirements throughout the year.

In preparation for the school year, two pieces of required summer reading must be completed before the first day of class. For each summer reading novel, you are expected to take detailed notes, bring them to class with you on the first day, and be ready to write, discuss, and speak about each.

See the attached page for information regarding what specifically is required in the notes and how they will be graded.

Each novel will be used during the opening weeks of school and then serve as a building block for coursework in this and future classes, so it is recommended that students purchase their own, physical copies of the books as opposed to checking them out from the library or using the eBook. Annotating and marking in the books is recommended but not required.

Questions about the summer reading can be directed to your teacher.

FICTION (book 1): *choose ONE*

Internment by Samira Ahmed

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth E. Wein

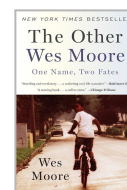


A note about the choice fiction reading: *students have a choice to read any of the novels listed above. These choices consist of diverse, high-interest Young Adult books within different genres. Due to their intended audience, the books deal with themes and issues relevant to teenagers but may be triggering to some; we encourage students in the Honors program to look into each of these options to find the one that best interests/suits them. Students may also choose to read more than one of the options, but they will only be responsible for note-taking on one.*

NON-FICTION (book 2): *required for ALL H10 students*

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore

ISBN: 978-0385528207 [please note that this is NOT the young reader's adaptation]



A NOTE ABOUT PURCHASING BOOKS:

Books can be purchased at several locations: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Bookbug/This is a Bookstore, etc.

Bookbug/This is a Bookstore (a small local bookstore in Kalamazoo) has created a dedicated page from which students and parents are welcome to shop. They will also be stocking these titles more plentifully throughout the summer and offering an in-store discount of 15% off to anyone identifying themselves as a PNHS student.

Here is the link to purchase: [Shop Portage Northern High School Summer Reading Book Lists](#)

ADDITIONAL PREPARATIONS: MATERIALS

In addition to reading the required novels (one non-fiction, one fiction) students should start the school year with the following materials: Pens/Pencils, Highlighters, Colored Pencils, and **a three-subject lined paper notebook (college-ruled) devoted to this class**. Throughout the course of the year, students will submit their notebooks as part of their graded assignments, so please be sure to have one specifically for English only.

REQUIRED NOTES:

[Students need to come with notes completed on the first full day of class]

Students should have their summer reading books and notes on summer reading on the first day of school. Students should come to class ready to participate in small group discussions and Socratic seminars on the novel(s); they should also be prepared to write an essay and complete a speech on the novel(s) they read. It is highly recommended for you to have your own copies of the texts to use in class. You are also required to take notes as you read. Additionally, we encourage you to mark up the text as you read. It is up to you to decide what you take notes on and the style of your notes; however, we expect that your notes are robust and analytical in nature- NOT just summary. To help guide your reading and prepare you for our study of the text when we return to school, we suggest that you use the following three questions to help guide your note-taking:

1. What do I notice?
2. Why do I think the author included this (characterization, metaphor, dialogue, intent, etc.)?
3. What is the greater point the author is trying to make/help me as the reader to understand (the greater significance)?

Additionally, as you are deciding what selections of the text to quote and analyze in your notes, here are a few things that readers typically zoom in on:

1. An author's use of figurative language (metaphors, similes, personification, etc.)
2. Interesting word choices (diction)
3. Symbolism
4. The way the author unveils their characters (dialogue, inner thoughts and feelings, actions and behaviors, etc.)
5. Flashbacks and foreshadowing
6. Motifs (recurring themes or ideas)
7. Key plot points
8. The point of view from which the story is told and how that impacts the way the story is told
9. Moments that help the writer get across the overall theme of the work (the larger message the writer is trying to get across to the reader)

***Cite the quotes you write down in your notes so you can go back and find them in the text. Follow MLA format for all citations.**

Special note:

It is essential that students demonstrate their commitment to what it means to be an Honors and Pre-IB learner by fully engaging in this assignment with an authentic and honest best effort that is free of cheating, collusion, plagiarism, and the use of AI. Per the student code of conduct, plagiarism on this - and any - assignment will result in a score of 0 that cannot be recovered and, because it is a Pre-IB class, potential removal from the course. Any instance of cheating will also be recorded on your permanent record. Nobody wants that for you! Just do your own best work.

Assessment Rubric:

A+	A	B	C	D	E
Includes all of the required elements at an exemplary level	Includes all of the required elements at a basic level	Includes most of the required elements at an exemplary level	Includes most of the required elements at a basic level	Includes some of the required elements at an exemplary level	Includes some of the required elements at a basic level; includes none of the required elements

Notes may be typed or untyped, but must be legible. To do the job fully and completely will likely require the equivalent of 4 typed, bullet point pages for each text.