

### **Rationale:**

*According to a study by Professors Anne McGill-Franzen and Richard Allington at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, students who received books for summer reading at home demonstrated a significantly higher level of reading achievement. Furthermore, the study concluded that students who do not read in the summer can [over time] fall a year behind students who do.*

### **Goals of Summer Reading:**

- To increase student literacy and prepare students for the upcoming year in the mixed literature course
  - To neutralize summer learning loss by keeping students' minds actively engaged while on summer break
  - To promote independent learning, personal responsibility, and deep thinking in students
  - To allow students a level of choice in their learning and to promote a deeper understanding of overarching themes within and across texts
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### **Expectations for Summer Reading:**

- Make brief annotations throughout your book: highlight and label important descriptions and events, comment on interesting passages, and keep track of possible themes and other patterns you notice. Abstain from writing unnecessary comments about how you feel about the book (i.e. "boring")
  - Your annotations should include some writing, labeling, defining, response, and reaction – annotation is more than simply highlighting. I suggest you jot down key events and write a brief summary of each chapter at the start/end of the chapter – a few bullet point notes would be sufficient.
  - While annotation is not expected on every page and it should not be a tedious process, you need to actively engage with the book and write down notes to help you remember your reading when school begins.
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### **Upcoming Assignments Based on the Summer Reading**

Summer Reading is the first unit we complete in Advanced Honors English. We use these two texts to establish many of the skills we will rely on throughout the school year, and the following assignments will be the first grades you receive in this class:

- A quiz with questions over each book (50 pts each) **This will be on the first or second day of class!**
- An essay (100 pts)
- A formal discussion (10 pts)
- Annotation checks for both books (20 pts per book)

**All freshmen students should carefully read and annotate two works this summer:**

### **MUST READ**

- *Night* by Elie Wiesel (ISBN: 9780374500016)

### **CHOICE**

Choose an additional memoir from the list below. Read your choice book carefully and make annotations to help you fully understand the characters, deeper meaning, plot, and major conflicts. You will write an essay on this work. **Do not choose a work you have previously studied in a class before.**

- *Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting It Done* by Andrea Gonzalez and Sophie Houser (ISBN: 9780062472472)
  - *Girl Code* is an empowering guide by Andrea Gonzalez and Sophie Houser that dives into the worlds of gaming, coding, and social media. As two teenage girls who created a viral game, they share their journey and the challenges they faced in a male-dominated industry. Packed with personal stories, practical advice, and inspiration, this book encourages young women to pursue their passions, break barriers, and confidently express themselves in the tech world. It's a must-read for any girl ready to make her mark.
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls (ISBN: 978-0743247542)
  - *The Glass Castle* is a gripping memoir by Jeannette Walls that takes readers on a wild ride through her unconventional childhood. Growing up with eccentric, often neglectful parents, Jeannette learns resilience and independence in the face of adversity. Her father dreams of building a magnificent glass castle, while her mother pursues her art, leaving the family in a constant state of chaos. With raw honesty and humor, Jeannette's story explores the complexities of love, family, and the struggle for a better life, making it a powerful read for anyone seeking inspiration.
- *Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina* by Michaela DePrince
  - *Taking Flight* is the inspiring true story of Michaela DePrince, who overcame incredible odds to pursue her passion for dance. Born in war-torn Sierra Leone and orphaned at a young age, Michaela faced hardship and adversity. Yet, her love for ballet became her escape and motivation. With determination and talent, she rises from a challenging childhood to become a celebrated ballerina. This uplifting memoir celebrates resilience, hope, and the power of dreams, making it a must-read for anyone striving to achieve their goals.
- *Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson* by Mitch Albom (ISBN: 978-0767905923)
  - *Tuesdays with Morrie* is an inspiring true story about a young man named Mitch who reconnects with his former professor, Morrie, after years apart. As Morrie faces a terminal illness, their weekly meetings dive deep into life's biggest lessons: love, work, family, and death. With humor and wisdom, Morrie shares his perspectives, challenging Mitch—and readers—to think about what truly matters. This story reminds us to cherish every moment and embrace our relationships, making it a must-read for anyone seeking meaning in life.

**Before you order anything or start reading your choice book, I suggest you do some preliminary research so as to avoid anything potentially upsetting for you, personally.**

## Topics & Ideas to Consider While Reading

In order to be prepared for class, tailor your annotations to the following concepts:

- **Characterization:** Who are the people in your book? How do they develop over the course of the novel? What conflicts do they experience? What are they motivated by?
  - **Setting:** Where does the book take place? How do the characters interact with the setting? How is the setting important and influential?
  - **Conflict:** What major conflicts are present? How do they change throughout the novel? How do the conflicts impact the characters and overall storyline?
  - **Historical background:** What historical events are portrayed throughout the book? How do these events impact the characters? How do these books connect to one another?
  - **Literary craft:** What thematic ideas are present in each text? Which events are described in great detail? What does the author do in terms of writing that you find intriguing?
  - **Connections:** Consider what you already know. What connections can you make to other books, poems, stories, etc?
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Annotation Grading Key					
20 (A+)	18 (A)	17 (B)	15 (C)	13 (D)	12> (F)
Annotations are consistently thoughtful, analytical, and demonstrate clear engagement with the text. The student has identified 95-100% of the most key parts of the text & all annotations include at least a brief comment.	Annotations are consistently thoughtful and demonstrate clear engagement with the text. The student has identified 90-94% of the most key parts of the text & all annotations include at least a brief comment.	Annotations are consistent throughout the book and have moments of thoughtfulness. The student has identified 80-89% of the most key parts of the text & the majority of annotations include at least a brief comment.	Annotations are somewhat consistent throughout the book. The student has identified 70-79% of the most key parts of the text & the majority of annotations include at least a brief comment.	Annotations are inconsistent throughout the book. The student has identified 66-69% of the most key parts of the text. Annotations are lacking in quality comments.	Annotations are not consistent throughout the book. The student is missing many key parts of the text, and annotations consist mainly of highlighting or underlining without comment.