Abington Heights School District
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To the 10th Grade Honors English Students:

Welcome! Next year in World Literature, we will be reading texts from several cultures and traditions. It will be a wonderful chance for you to reflect on the world, yourself, and what it means to be a human being. I look forward to having you in class!

All students who will be taking 10th Grade Honors English during the 2023-2024 school year are required to read **four (4)** books and write a reflection paper before the school year begins. The selections below represent a variety of voices in world literature, and will prepare you for the themes and genres we will explore next year.

You can find these books at our local library, online, and in stores. If you'd like to stay in touch over the summer, you can join the ENG II Honors 2023 Summer Classroom with the code **zuuwsil.**

Books:

1. Allegory: The Hero's Journey. Required book:

- ***The Alchemist* by Paolo Coelho**
  This novel details the journey of a shepherd boy from Spain to Morocco to Egypt, in a quest for success and self-discovery. The Alchemist

2. Fiction: Overcoming Obstacles. Choose one of the following books:

- ***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**
  This is the story of an Indian youth who survives in a boat for several months after the ship his family was traveling on sinks.

- ***Purple Hibiscus: A Novel* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**
  Fifteen-year-old Kambili lives a privileged life in Nigeria, but she has an abusive father. This story depicts her evolving awareness about her family, her country, and her religion.

- ***The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck**
  This classic novel is set in China in the 1920s, and traces the life of a poor farmer and his family as they strive for survival, wealth, and happiness.

- ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith**
  An American classic, this modern-era epic tells the story of Francie Nolan as she grows up in a poor Irish immigrant family in Brooklyn in the early 1900s.

3. Nonfiction: Finding Meaning amid Struggle. Choose one of the following books:

- ***Man's Search for Meaning*** **by Viktor Frankl**
  This is a classic autobiographical piece by a man who was imprisoned in four different Nazi camps, and survived. The lessons he learned about suffering and finding meaning in life have taught generations of readers.

- ***The Book of Joy*** **by the Dalai Lama, Desmund Tutu, and Douglas Abrams**
  This book records the conversations between two of the world's most revered leaders, who have both persevered through oppression and helped others find peace amid struggle.

4. Nonfiction: Life Advice. Choose one of the following books:

- ***The Tao of Pooh*** **by Benjamin Hoff**
  This nonfiction book is an analysis of the Winnie the Pooh stories through the lens of Taoism; we will study the *Tao te Ching* this year. the-tao-of-pooh-by-benjamin-hoff1.pdf

- ***The Four Agreements*** **by Don Miguel Ruiz**
  This piece of nonfiction outlines the wisdom of the Toltec people, an ancient society who lived in Mexico. These rules for living include being true to your word, not taking things personally, not making assumptions, and trying your best.

Reflection

Write a reflection paper in which you connect the ideas from the book you read for either Category #3 (Finding Meaning amid Struggle) or #4 (Life Advice) to your life.

- Have an intro in which you introduce the book.
- Body paragraphs: Choose at least three main ideas from the book, explain what they are, and explain how each connects to your life. For each idea, have a direct quote from the book (the quote should be more than a chapter title).
- In your conclusion, give your overall opinion about the book.
- Use MLA in-text citations and have a Works Cited at the end.
- It is due on the first day of class.

When you return to school in September, you will complete projects, discussions, and writing assignments about these books. It is a good idea to jot down any thoughts or reactions you have while reading, so that you can more easily remember the books when you come back to school.

Happy reading and reflecting!

Dr. Marilyn Pryle
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