

ENGLISH II HONORS SUMMER READING

The ninth and tenth grade Honors (Pre-AP) English classes are designed to prepare students for the demands of the eleventh and twelfth grade college-level Advanced Placement courses. The Advanced Placement Program® Course Description and Teacher's Guide published by The College Board describes a suitable candidate for Advanced Placement English as follows:

“Academically talented, imaginative students who read with finesse and write with clarity and style, who are curious and responsive to academic risk-taking, and who are not deterred by hard work.”

Please note that Honors (Pre-AP) English II at Marble Falls High School has a summer reading requirement comprised of both a whole-class novel with a connected assignment *and* the independent reading of a self-selected text. We naturally encourage you to be voracious readers, so read as many books as you'd like. These summer reading requirements and related assignments will be due during the first week of class.

REQUIRED READING AND ASSIGNMENT

A Long Way Gone Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

by Ishmael Beah

All students who sign up for English II Honors (Pre-AP) are required to read and annotate the memoir over the summer. **The annotations of *A Long Way Gone* are imperative for the first assignments of the school year.**

Directions: You must complete the following components.

1. Read *A Long Way Gone Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. PDF COPY: A Long Way Gone
2. Annotate the novel in a manner that enhances your understanding (if you purchase your own book you can annotate directly in the memoir, if you use the PDF version of the memoir, you can use a physical notebook).

As you annotate, you are encouraged to notice the following:

- a. Plot structure and development
 - i. Conflicts, internal and external
 - ii. Foreshadowing, etc.
- b. Setting
- c. Point of View
- d. Tone
- e. Characterization (direct and indirect)
- f. Devices
 - i. Imagery
 - ii. Figurative language (simile, metaphor, etc.)
 - iii. Motifs
 - iv. Symbols
 - v. Word choice (diction)
 - vi. Sentence structure (syntax)
 - vii. Allusions
- g. Theme

3. After reading the memoir, create 3 essential questions that you feel Beah wants his readers to consider or answer in response to his life story. Along with your question, provide the text evidence that acted as a source or impetus for your essential questions. These will be used for class activities during the first four weeks of school
4. In the second week of class, there will be a reading quiz, and short answer responses.

***Note: You will **not** be able to refer to the memoir for the reading check quiz, but you will be able to use your memoir and annotations for the short answer responses. This is why annotation is important! ☺

SUMMER READING SELF-SELECTED BOOK

Since we read for a variety of reasons, you should also choose another book to read this summer, both for your own enjoyment and to challenge your normal reading habits (try a new genre, read a more challenging text, commit to a new author, etc.).

You may read either a fiction or non-fiction text. As is always the case with your text selections, consider your own individual interests, as well as what feels like a comfortable stretch to you as you read independently. Please also keep your personal and family values in mind as you choose a title.

We will read the following texts in class this year. You may not choose these for your I.R., either over the summer, or once we begin classes in the fall. This list is subjected to change.

- *Outliers The Story of Success*— Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Tragedy of Macbeth* — William Shakespeare
- *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* — Robert Louis Stevenson
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* — Harper Lee

Additionally, do not choose any books assigned in your prior English class, or any book you've already read!

Please finish reading your self-selected book by the first day of school and be prepared to start reading a new book after Labor Day.

Have a great summer, and we'll see you in August!

If you have any questions, you may email the following teacher:

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