

Honors English I: Summer Reading Assignment 2024

1. Reading: Your Summer Reading Assignment for Honors English I involves reading **two books** that explore the subject of survival which is the theme of the first unit we will study in August. Everyone will read the novella ***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**. Then you will choose one of the remaining books from the list below to read as well. Make notes (annotations) in both books focusing on the essential question, “**How do our choices impact our lives?**” How do the characters react to opportunities and manage the consequences of their choices? These annotations will identify the evidence you need for your in-class writing assignment within the first week of school. The required reading and annotations should be completed by August 15th.

If you are new to the idea of annotating, annotations may include brief notes, questions, highlighted passages, sticky notes, or coded references that can be reviewed at a later time. Here is a link to a video from UT about annotations: <https://youtu.be/CNr-E8g35nl>

2. Activity: Create a Character Analysis Chart for one of the major characters in your chosen text. Characters’ backgrounds and experiences directly affect the choices they make, which then impact their lives for better or worse. You are discovering the character’s reasons for the choices they make.

Character Analysis: Focus on one of the main characters in the book you chose to read. On a Google Doc, address each of the following categories described below for that character. Provide a quote (with page) from the text as evidence of at least one of the claims you have made about the character for that category. You will upload this assignment to Google Classroom by August 19th.

Categories of Character Analysis:

- Physical Characteristics (voice, demeanor, dress, distinguishing marks, strengths, weaknesses, etc.) *include a quote as evidence
 - Background (Family life/history, personal interests, beliefs, values) *include a quote as evidence
 - Development or Changes in Character (how the character responds to events and actions of other characters) *include a quote as evidence
 - Tactics/Will (Conflict with self/nature/man/society? Threatening to others? Strong or weak willpower? Moral responsibility to others? Honest with self and others?) *include a quote as evidence
 - Judgment (View of character in eyes of others - i.e. narrator, society, other characters) *include a quote as evidence
 - Influences (good and bad) that impact the character’s choices *include a quote as evidence
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck (everyone reads this) ISBN: 978-0-14-017737-4 You need a hard copy.
 - Choose one more book from this list: *Choose a book you have not read.
 - Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe
 - Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
 - Courage to Soar* by Simone Biles
 - Touch the Top of the World* by Erik Weihenmayer
 - Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
 - Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team* by Andrew Maraniss

**Note: By studying a diverse body of texts we will be introduced to literature that, at times, describes behavior and expresses ideas that conflict with the Christian view of the human situation and the values of WCS. Literature reflects Truth in two ways: 1) The Truth of the universe pervades our writing and appears as symbols, themes, thoughts and ideas expressed in literature. 2) Sometimes literature shows the need for God through the emptiness and actions a character accepts or the writing reveals. As a mature audience, we will be able to evaluate the material and literature through a Christian perspective when we study material in class.*