

SUMMER READING 2016 - ALL HONORS ENGLISH STUDENTS*

Norwalk Early College Academy
Summer Contact: **Ms. Amaker**

Summer vacation is a great time to travel through the pages of a book! Explore new genres, experience different worlds, and examine unfamiliar situations as you work to fulfill NECA's *new and improved* summer reading requirements to get a solid start to the 2016-2017 school year.

THE ASSIGNMENT:

Choose at least **two books** that will interest and entertain you. While reading, **take notes** on each of the two books. Summer reading will count as 20% of your first marking period grade.

THE NOTES:

- The notes you take for each book may take any form you like. The **goal is to remember your books** so that you can successfully talk and write about them when school begins.
- **Include quotations** (important/meaningful/memorable lines) that will capture the spirit of the book.
- **The notes must be your own.** Printed information from the Internet will **NOT** be accepted.
- **Bring your notes on the first day of class.** They will be used to generate a discussion and a writing assignment which will enable your new English teacher to get to know you as a reader and as a student. **You will not receive credit if your notes are not complete.**

Here is a suggested format for your notes. You will also find an optional notes template attached to this assignment sheet.

- Book title
- Book author
- Identification of significant characters
- 2-3 sentences completing the phrase "This book is about _____."
- 3-5 quotations with page numbers and brief explanations of significance

THE FIRST DAY:

Bring your notes on the first day of class. Be prepared for discussions of the summer reading books as well as related written assignments during the first two weeks of English class. Possible discussion topics include:

- Why did you select these books?
- Would you recommend them to others?
- How did the main character remind you of yourself?
- How would you have handled the main conflict?

Choosing a Great Book:

- Read the title and look at the front cover: does the illustration spark your interest? Does the title make you wonder what is inside?
- Read the first sentence of the book. If this interests you, finish the page!
- Read a page in the middle of the book and use the “Five Finger” rule:
- Five Finger Rule: if there are five or more words on the page that you don’t know or cannot read, the book may not be for you.
- Read another book by an author you already know.
- Read another book from a series that you enjoy.
- Ask your friends for recommendations. You can compare opinions when you finish!
- Be sure to check out the best teen picks and young adult novels on the websites listed on the next page.
- Use co-opartsandhumanities.org and your public library’s websites to access suggestions for summer reading from students and staff.
- Choose a book with a specific theme in mind: romance, mystery, science fiction, biography, etc.
- ASK!!! Talk to the media specialists, employees in bookstores, reading specialists, English teachers...they all have something to recommend!

WEB SOURCES FOR GREAT READS:

- **Booklamp.org** – home of the Book Genome Project. Similar to how Pandora.com matches music lovers to new music, BookLamp helps you find books through a computer-based analysis of written DNA.
- **BookSpot.com** – check out “What to Read” and “Genre Corner.”
- **GoodReads.com** – has the latest and newest titles, the best titles for book clubs, and a variety of reading recommendations for lovers of fiction and non-fiction.
- **101 Great Books Recommended for College-Bound Readers-**
http://wcpscollegeandcareer.weebly.com/uploads/7/7/1/1/7711918/college_board_recommended_books.pdf
- **Kindred Works**– <http://experimental.worldcar.org/kindredworks/index.html> - An experimental recommender service that helps you discover books, movies, and music similar to a sample work of your choice. Use Kindred Works by entering a title or ISBN in the search box or by selecting one of the samples on the page.
- **Library Thing Book Suggester** – <http://www.librarything.com/suggest>
- **Modern Library 100 Best** – <http://www.modernlibrary.com/top-100/>
- **Norwalk Free Public Library** – www.nhfpl.org
- **New York Times Bestsellers List** – <http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/overview.html>
- **Pulitzer Prizes** – <http://www.pulitzer.org/> - honoring excellence in journalism and the arts since 1917.

Name: _____ Entering Grade: _____
Book #1 Title: _____
Book #1 Author: _____

CHARACTERS

Name(s)	Description(s)	Picture/Symbol
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SETTING...

THIS BOOK IS ABOUT...

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS...

QUESTION

SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE...

Name: _____ Entering Grade: _____
Book #1 Title: _____
Book #1 Author: _____

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