

## HONORS ENGLISH II – SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2024

**General instructions:** To accommodate students who are reliant on their surfaces to complete their work and to use Teams as a means of submitting work, due dates for summer work are at the end of the summer. Look for an e-mail for a new Team for Honors English II around August 1<sup>st</sup>. Once that has been set up, there will be assignments in Teams for the submission of your summer work.

Some reminders for submitting your work:

- Always submit Word documents on Teams. It's much easier for grading than OneNote or GoogleDocs. Do NOT use Sharepoint; it opens in a separate window, creating complications for grading.
- Always follow MLA guidelines for formatting your work including an appropriate heading, correct spacing, etc.
- Always use literary present tense in writing about literature.
- Never use first- or second-person personal pronouns such as I, we, you, and their variations in formal academic writing.
- Essays should follow the five-paragraph essay structure unless otherwise indicated.

### Assignments – The Modern World Experience

- The literature for sophomore year is World literature, and while it would be great to be able to study books about a variety of cultures and experiences throughout the school year, time limits us to reading just a couple of such books during the second semester. The first semester is devoted to the foundations of Western literature. As a result, I ask students to read books about various places and people during the summer. Most of the books on the list have been written since 1950 so some of them deal with mature ideas and/or may contain more graphic language. Please read reviews and synopses online to make a choice that suits your (and your parents') comfort level.
- Read TWO of the following books (they are not all novels; some are nonfiction, poetry, short story collections, graphic novels, etc.) which deal with the experience of people who are American and who are primarily from non-white backgrounds.
  - a. *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
  - b. *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
  - c. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo
  - d. *The Good Braider* by Terry Farish
  - e. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
  - f. *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolpho Anaya
  - g. *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
  - h. *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea
  - i. *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi
  - j. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
  - k. *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Boyhood* by Trevor Noah
  - l. *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See
  - m. *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue
  - n. *Beartown* by Frederick Backman
  - o. *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
  - p. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

- Respond to the following analysis questions for each book:
  1. Create a theme statement for the book based on your reading and then support your theme statement.
  2. Explain the significance of the name of the book you have chosen.
  3. Explain one symbol from the book you have chosen.
  4. Explain how the format or type of work (memoir, nonfiction reportage, poetry, short stories, novel, etc.) suits the author's message.
  5. Find an example of ONE of the following types of irony in your book and analyze the effect and purpose of your example: situational, dramatic; verbal.
  6. What have you learned about the culture and experience of the people whose stories are told within this work? How are their experiences different from yours? How are they similar?
- Submit your work on Teams by August 14.
- You will write an essay for one book and do a project called a "one-pager" for the other. Details for these assignments will be explained on the first day of class and will be due approximately 2 weeks from the first day of school.