

## 2017-2018 English III Summer Reading Assignment

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

### Select one of the following books to read this summer:

- *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls
- *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

### Reading Focus: Author's Craft

Junior English will routinely ask students to consider the *author's craft*, or *how the author intentionally uses literary devices and structural elements in order to create meaning and also persuade, entertain, or inform an audience.*

Students are strongly encouraged to annotate and take notes in order to identify purposeful author's craft decisions, such as plot elements, conflict, characterization, theme, or any literary elements. Additionally, students should include notes about how these author's craft decisions help to create meaning in their novel. Students should use the notetaking method that is most comfortable for them. Some options for note-taking may include one of the following:

- annotating their book by highlighting important passages, then writing in the margin about why this passage is important. (Highlighting without note-taking is not helpful.)
- using post-it notes to place a marker on important passages, and then using the post-it to make notes about why the passage is important. (Post-its without notes will not be helpful.)
- creating a t-chart. Students write down an important quote that exhibits author's craft (along with the page number) on the left, then will write notes about the passage directly across from the quote. Comments should be limited to why this passage is important.

Ideas on what to look for as you read are on the back of this assignment sheet.

Plan to bring your book to class with you upon returning for the first week of school. Students can expect an exam over their summer reading text during the second week of school. In addition, students will use their notes and annotations over their novel for additional graded activities, including a **major grade assignment** over the summer reading novel. You will be using these notes during the first 3 weeks of the new school year. Be ready.

Please note: We will read F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* immediately after the summer reading unit. It would be wise to not only locate a copy of the novel before school begins, but also to read the novel over the summer in order to be ready for the work we will do in class with the novel.

## Novel Annotations

### Plot (What happens?)

- What is the main conflict?
- Where did the story take place? Did it change?
- How was the conflict resolved?

### What's that word?

- Identify any new words and slang words
- Write a brief definition

### Character

- Identify key characters within the story
- Mark significant behavior and dialogue that demonstrate their personality.
- Look for how they interact with or influence other characters
- Add notes to suggest how this behavior is important.

### Theme

- highlight/underline possible themes found within the story
- make notes about what the character (or reader) is learning from the situation

### Author's Style/Author's Tools

- highlight/underline examples of :
  - allusion
  - figurative language
  - imagery
  - symbolism
  - foreshadowing/flashback
  - irony
- make notes about how/why the author uses this tool (explain the effect it has on the reader/character)

## Key Terms

**Theme:** the message that the reader can learn from a story about an abstract idea/topic (such as love, honesty, anger, pride, etc.)

**Allusion:** a direct reference to something else to help add to the meaning/point of the author. "He was a real Romeo with the ladies."

**Imagery:** descriptions that appeal to the five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing)

**Figurative Language:** similes (compare two unlike things using like or as), metaphor (direct comparison of two unlike things), hyperbole (exaggeration), and personification (describing nonhuman objects as if they are human)

**Symbolism:** a particular object, color or item, or item in nature is used to represent and abstract idea (these are objects that would already be connected to this idea such as light representing goodness or knowledge)

**Foreshadowing:** giving hints about future events in the story

**Flashback:** the story shifts to an event that happened in the past (and tells that story)

**Irony:** when a character or situation turns out differently than expected.