



# The Woodlands College Park High School

Conroe Independent School District

## English II Level

### 2018-2019 Summer Reading Buffet

*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.*

**Assignment:** Sticky Note/Annotation entries: while actively reading, write personal observations and notes either on sticky notes or directly in your book. The **quality and detail** of your entries will significantly impact your success on the major grade assessment that will be completed at the beginning of the school year (**the first week**).

#### Annotation requirements:

- Write a minimum of 20 entries as you read
- Notes should cover the entire book
- Include a variety of notes (\*see categories on bookmark)
- No summaries for this assignment

**\*Attached are topics that should be addressed in your entries. Cut out the bookmark information as a helpful reference for your summer reading activity.**

Please plan to bring your book to class with you on the first day of school, as there will be a **major grade assignment** over the summer reading novel based on your entries. For the summer of 2018, English II students will be required to select **one** book from our “Reading Buffet”:

#### ***If at Birth You Don't Succeed* by Zach Anner Genre: Autobiography**

Comedian Zach Anner opens his frank and devilishly funny book, *If at Birth You Don't Succeed*, with an admission: he botched his own birth. Two months early, underweight and under-prepared for life, he entered the world with cerebral palsy and an uncertain future. So how did this hairless mole-rat of a boy blossom into a viral internet sensation who's hosted two travel shows, impressed Oprah, driven the Mars Rover, and inspired a John Mayer song? (It wasn't "Your Body is a Wonderland.")

#### ***I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez Genre: YA/Realistic Fiction**

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never *abandon* their family.

But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role.

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out *every possible way* Julia has failed.

But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first kiss, first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

#### ***Where'd you go Bernadette?* by Maria Semple Genre: Fiction/Humor**

Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Then Bernadette disappears. It began when Bee aced her report card and claimed her promised reward: a family trip to Antarctica. But Bernadette's intensifying allergy to Seattle--and people in general--has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands. A trip to the end of the earth is problematic. To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, secret correspondence--creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's role in an absurd world.

### ***House Rules* by Jodi Picoult Genre: Fiction/Mystery**

When your son can't look you in the eye . . . does that mean he's guilty? Jacob Hunt is a teen with Asperger's syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, though he is brilliant in many ways. But he has a special focus on one subject—forensic analysis. A police scanner in his room clues him in to crime scenes, and he's always showing up and telling the cops what to do. And he's usually right.

But when Jacob's small hometown is rocked by a terrible murder, law enforcement comes to him. Jacob's behaviors are hallmark Asperger's, but they look a lot like guilt to the local police. Suddenly the Hunt family, who only want to fit in, are directly in the spotlight. For Jacob's mother, Emma, it's a brutal reminder of the intolerance and misunderstanding that always threaten her family. For his brother, Theo, it's another indication why nothing is normal because of Jacob. And over this small family, the soul-searing question looms: Did Jacob commit murder?

### ***The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown Genre: Non-fiction/Coming of Age**

*The #1 New York Times–bestselling story about American Olympic triumph in Nazi Germany* Out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal quest.

### ***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng Genre: Contemporary Fiction**

This is a riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

*Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

### ***Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell Genre: YA Fiction/Coming of Age**

*A New York Times Best Seller and A 2014 Michael L. Printz Honor Book for Excellence in Young Adult Literature*

Half-Korean sophomore Park Sheridan is getting through high school by lying low, listening to the Smiths (it's 1986), reading Alan Moore's Watchmen comics, never raising his hand in class, and avoiding the kids he grew up with. Then new girl Eleanor gets on the bus. Tall, with bright red hair and a dress code all her own, she's an instant target. Too nice not to let her sit next to him, Park is alternately resentful and guilty for not being kinder to her. When he realizes she's reading his comics over his shoulder, a silent friendship is born. Eleanor and Park, who tell the story in alternating segments, like and admire about each other. Their love is believable and thrilling, but it isn't simple: Eleanor's family is broke, and her stepfather abuses her mother. When the situation turns dangerous, Rowell keeps things surprising, and the solution—imperfect but believable—maintains the novel's delicate balance of light and dark

### ***The Beginning of Everything* by Robyn Schneider Genre: YA Fiction/Coming of Age**

Schneider offers an engrossing romance, in which tragedy brings two teens together, then threatens to tear them apart. Ezra Faulkner has a bright future as a tennis player until a car accident leaves him with a serious knee injury. Along with losing his spot on the team and his prospects of being recruited by colleges, he is dropped by his popular clique. At the onset of senior year, he makes major changes, rekindling a childhood friendship he'd dropped after a gruesome mishap, joining the debate team, and getting to know Cassidy Thorpe, the enigmatic new student with a reputation as a stellar debater. Ezra is mesmerized by Cassidy's intelligence, wit, and philosophical ideas, but after they become a couple, her mood swings set off unexpected sparks. Tension builds as Cassidy's past comes to light, and a shocking climax culminates in an emotional crash to rival Ezra's physical one. Schneider shows remarkable skill at getting inside her narrator's head as his life swings between disaster and recovery.

### ***Ender's Shadow* by Orson Scott Card Genre: Science Fiction**

The human race is at War with the "Buggers," an insect-like alien race. As Earth prepares to defend itself from total destruction at the hands of an inscrutable enemy, all focus is on the development of military geniuses who can fight such a war, and win. The long distances of interstellar space have given hope to the defenders of Earth—they have time to train these future commanders up from childhood, forging them into an irresistible force in the high orbital facility called the Battle School. Andrew "Ender" Wiggin was not the only child in the Battle School; he was just the best of the best. In *Ender's Shadow*, Card tells the story of another of those precocious generals, the one they called Bean—the one who became Ender's right hand, part of his team, in the final battle against the Buggers. Bean's past was a battle just to survive. His success brought him to the attention of the Battle School's recruiters, those people scouring the planet for leaders, tacticians, and generals to save Earth from the threat of alien invasion. Bean was sent into orbit, to the Battle School. And there he met Ender....

### ***Red Rising* by Pierce Brown Genre: Fiction/Fantasy**

Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. Yet he spends his life willingly, knowing that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better world for his children. But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. Soon he discovers that humanity reached the surface generations ago. Vast cities and lush wilds spread across the planet. Darrow—and Reds like him—are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class. Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity's overlords struggle for power. He will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization against the best and most brutal of Society's ruling class. There, he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies . . . even if it means he has to become one of them to do so.

### ***Elephant Run* by Ronald Smith Genre: Historical Fiction**

In 1941, bombs drop from the night skies of London, demolishing the apartment Nick Freestone lives in with his mother.

Deciding the situation in England is too unstable, Nick's mother sends him to live with his father in Burma, hoping he will be safer living on the family's teak plantation.

But as soon as Nick arrives, trouble erupts in the remote Burmese elephant village. Japanese soldiers invade, and Nick's father is taken prisoner. Nick is left stranded on the plantation, forced to work as a servant to the new rulers. As life in the village grows more dangerous for Nick and his young friend, Mya, they plan their daring escape. Setting off on elephant back, they will risk their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese POW camp. In this thrilling journey through the jungles of Burma, Roland Smith explores the far-reaching effects of World War II, while introducing readers to the fascinating world of wild timber.

### ***Monday Night Jihad* by Jason Elam and Steve Yohn Genre: Fiction/Sports**

He thought his deadliest enemy knelt across the line of scrimmage. He was wrong! After a tour of duty in Afghanistan, Riley Covington is living his dream as a professional linebacker when he comes face to face with a radical terrorist group on his own home turf. Drawn into the nightmare around him, Riley returns to his former life as a member of a special ops team that crosses oceans in an attempt to stop the escalating attacks. But time is running out, and it soon becomes apparent that the terrorists are on the verge of achieving their goal—to strike at the very heart of America. Written by a member of the NFL; gives read

### ***Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy Genre: YA Fiction**

With starry Texas nights, red candy suckers, Dolly Parton songs, and a wildly unforgettable heroine—*Dumplin'* is guaranteed to steal your heart. Dubbed "Dumplin'" by her former beauty queen mom, Willowdean has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body. With her all-American-beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked . . . until Will takes a job at Harpy's, the local fast-food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn't surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she *is* surprised when he seems to like her back. Instead of finding new heights of self-assurance in her relationship with Bo, Will starts to doubt herself. So she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant—along with several other unlikely candidates—to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any twiggy girl does. Along the way, she'll shock the hell out of Clover City—and maybe herself most of all.

\*The following are possible annotation topics that could be addressed in your entries. Annotation topics can be used more than once but remember *you need at least 20 entries in your book*. **Cut out the information below and use it as a bookmark/guide for your entries.**

<p><b>Novel Entry Guide: This is what your entries could include.</b></p>	<p><b>Key Terms</b></p>
<p><b>Plot (What happens?)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is the main conflict?</li> <li>➤ Where did the story take place? Did it change?</li> <li>➤ How was the conflict resolved?</li> </ul> <p><b>Character</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify key characters within the story</li> <li>➤ Mark significant behavior and dialogue that demonstrate their personality.</li> <li>➤ Add notes to suggest how this behavior is important.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ highlight/underline possible themes found within the story</li> <li>➤ make notes about what the character (reader) are learning from the situation</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional strategies helpful for reading comprehension:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify any new words and slang words</li> <li>➤ Write a brief definition</li> <li>➤ Create chapter titles</li> <li>➤ create a #hashtag for each chapter</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theme:</b> the message that the reader can learn from a story about an abstract idea/topic (such as love, honesty, anger, pride, etc.)</p> <p><b>Imagery:</b> descriptions that appeal to the five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing)</p> <p><b>Figurative Language:</b> <u>similes</u> (compare two unlike things using like or as), <u>metaphor</u> (direct comparison of two unlike things), <u>hyperbole</u> (exaggeration), and <u>personification</u> (describing nonhuman objects as if they are human)</p> <p><b>Symbolism:</b> a particular object, color or item, or item in nature is used to represent and abstract idea (these are objects that would already to be connected to this idea such as light representing goodness or knowledge)</p> <p><b>Foreshadowing:</b> giving hints about future events in the story</p> <p><b>Flashback:</b> the story shifts to an event that happens in the past (and tells that story)</p> <p><b>Irony:</b> when a character or situation turns out differently than expected.</p> <p><b>Conflict:</b> a problem within a story</p>