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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for another great year of working with your student. For the next school year, we will continue our summer reading program. All students who have enrolled in an Honors or Advanced Placement English class will be asked to complete some summer reading. As you know, reading is a critical thinking skill necessary to be successful in school and in the job market. The more students read, the better they write and think; the better they write and think, the better they read.

By asking honor students to complete summer reading, the goal is to provide enrichment and enjoyment for the students while minimizing the “lag time” that often occurs at the beginning of a school year where students must review and “catch up” from the prior year. Summer reading is a common practice at most schools, and has been proven time and time again, to aide in student achievement. Our department has tried to offer titles to students that should be easily understood without classroom teaching and support.

Your summer assignment is to purchase, read, and annotate one of the following books:

Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

Description: Thirty years since its original publication, *Ceremony* remains one of the most profound and moving works of Native American literature, a novel that is itself a ceremony of healing. Tayo, a World War II veteran of mixed ancestry, returns to the Laguna Pueblo Reservation. He is deeply scarred by his experience as a prisoner of the Japanese and further wounded by the rejection he encounters from his people. Only by immersing himself in the Indian past can he begin to regain the peace that was taken from

him. Masterfully written, filled with the somber majesty of Pueblo myth, Ceremony is a work of enduring power.

Or

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Description: Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.

This must be completed before the first day of school. You will need to bring your book to class the first week to show your notes, and you will be tested on the material.

How do you annotate?

Use a pen or pencil to underline text and write notes in the margins.

What should I underline?	What should I write in the margins?
Figurative language that demands interpretation (metaphors, similes, personification, etc.)	Your interpretations of the figurative language (<i>What does the author literally mean?</i>)
Remarkable imagery that impacts the tone (language that evokes the senses)	Words to describe the tone based on what you've underlined
Striking examples of author's style (a clever word choice, a sentence only he/she could have composed)	Words to describe the author's style based on what you've underlined
Unknown vocabulary words (circle these)	Definitions (Be sure it's a definition that makes sense in this context!)
Puzzling text (a passage that confuses you)	Predictions, possibilities, questions, or simply a question mark
Text that leads to a personal connection (to your life or other literature, film, television, music you have experienced)	Note the connection (comparison or contrast)

Textual evidence that supports an opinion you have or an insight you've made (ideas about characters, plot, setting, point of view, or theme)	Your opinion or insight based on what you've underlined
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*Be discriminating. If you underline everything, you may as well have underlined nothing. For example, you don't need to underline every example of imagery, only those that have a major impact. You should have at least one annotation per page.

Additional literary elements to watch:

Allusions = References to other literary works

Symbols/Motifs = Is there a reoccurring idea or image that might represent something or someone on a symbolic level?

Themes = Pay particular attention to the themes of identity and the American dream

Other appropriate marginalia:

This is your book. You bought it so you could use the margins as your journal, your space for thinking about the text, processing it, and recording your own ideas. Any connections you make, ideas, questions, or insights that come from reading something on that page should appear in its margins.

Advanced Placement English teachers distribute their assignments separately to students. Check the Sunlake High School website for information. Please be sure to choose the correct assignment—AP English Language or English Literature. If you have questions, contact the school for guidance.

All of these assignments will be posted on the Sunlake High School website.

We appreciate your support of our efforts in the English Department to provide the best education we can for your student. We encourage you to read along with your son/daughter and provide encouragement along the way. Should you have any questions about the summer reading program, feel free to contact anyone in the English department at the school at (813) 346-1000.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,