

Sunlake High School Incoming 9th Grade English I Honors Summer Reading Assignment

All incoming freshmen who will be taking English I Honors in the fall of 2013 must choose one of the following titles and complete the related assignment. This assignment is mandatory, will be a recorded grade and is due, by or on Monday, August 26, 2013. Students should also be prepared to discuss their chosen novel. Novels will be available at Barnes & Noble, Wiregrass. If for any reason, these titles are unacceptable to you, or you have any questions regarding the summer assignment, please contact Ms. Tara Lenhard at tlenhard@pasco.k12.fl.us

Option #1 – *American Born Chinese* – Gene Luen Yang – 223 pages

From CommonSenseMedia.org:

Three parallel stories interlock in this graphic novel: In the first, the American-born Chinese boy of the title, Jin, moves with his family from San Francisco's Chinatown to a mostly white suburb. There he's exposed to racism (from children and adults), bullying, and taunts and is isolated until a Taiwanese boy, Wei-Chen Sun, moves in and they become friends. But Jin develops a crush on a white girl and longs to fit in. The second story is a retelling of the story of the Monkey King, a fabled Chinese character who develops extraordinary powers in his quest to be accepted as a god. The third concerns Danny, a popular Anglo boy who's visited by his cousin, Chin-Kee, a walking, talking example of the most pernicious Asian stereotypes.

Option #2 – *The Time Keeper* – Mitch Albom – 222 pages

From MitchAlbom.com:

From the he author who's inspired millions worldwide with books like *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* comes his most imaginative novel yet, *The Time Keeper* – a compelling fable about the first man on earth to count the hours. The man who became Father Time.

In Mitch Albom's newest work of fiction, the inventor of the world's first clock is punished for trying to measure God's greatest gift. He is banished to a cave for centuries and forced to listen to the voices of all who come after him seeking more days, more years. Eventually, with his soul nearly broken, Father Time is granted his freedom, along with a magical hourglass and a mission: a chance to redeem himself by teaching two earthly people the true meaning of time. He returns to our world-now dominated by the hour-counting he so innocently began-and commences a journey with two unlikely partners: one a teenage girl who is about to give up on life, the other a wealthy old businessman who wants to live forever. To save himself, he must save them both. And stop the world to do so. Told in Albom's signature spare, evocative prose, this remarkably original tale will inspire readers everywhere to reconsider their own notions of time, how they spend it and how precious it truly is.

(please see other side for assignment details)



Assignment for English I Honors Summer Reading

This assignment should be typed, double spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins.

Part I – Character Connection

Using the main characters from your chosen novel, please complete the character connection.

Main Characters	
<i>American Born Chinese</i>	<i>The Timekeeper</i>
Jin	Dor
The Monkey King	Sarah Lemon
Danny	Victor Delamonte

Similarities – Choose one main character from your chosen novel and explain how you are most like this character. While you may not have literal similarities to any character, there are elements which you may share. Write using details and citations with page numbers from the text. Your complete response should be a few paragraphs.

Differences – Choose one main character from your chosen novel and explain how you are most different from this character. Write using details and citations with page numbers from the text. Your complete response should be a few paragraphs.

Part II – Overall Review

After reading either of these novels, your perspective on certain aspects of life should have changed. Describe how this novel has changed your outlook on life (or the concept of time, or cultural conflict). What was your overall opinion of the novel? And, would you recommend this novel to other teens, why or why not?

A complete response to the aforementioned will use details and citations from the text and be a few paragraphs. If you need assistance with the formatting or citations, please visit the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>