



PRINCE GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL

7801 Laurel Spring Road | Prince George, Virginia 23875

LEAD. INNOVATE. INSPIRE. LEAD. INNOVATE. INSPIRE. LEAD. INNOVATE. INSPIRE.

June 2022

Dear English 11 Honors students and parents:

Welcome to the English 11 Honors class for next year. This course will concentrate on a variety of subjects with a focus on rhetoric, tone analysis, argumentation, diction, and the use of metaphor. The methods by which we will explore these skills will include nonfiction works, American novels, drama, and poetry. The course will also require several oral presentations and research assignments.

Throughout this school year, students will:

- Read, comprehend, and analyze relationships among American literature, history, and culture.
- Compare and contrast the development of American literature in its historical context.
- Analyze the social or cultural function of American literature.
- Generate and respond logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, synthesizing, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading texts.
- Analyze two or more texts addressing the same topic to identify authors' purpose, tone, and their separate conclusions.
- Extend vocabulary by applying knowledge of word origins, roots, affixes, derivations, and context.
- Become more active readers by learning to annotate a given text
- Collaborate in group activities and presentations
- Improve upon media literacy by evaluating sources and identifying tools and techniques used to achieve focus
- Self and peer-edit writing for grammar, organization, and proper citation
- Prepare for writing and reading SOL exams

Over the summer, each student has the **option** to complete a reading assignment. If it is turned in on the first day of our class, completed, and a product of their original work, it may earn up to a 100 quiz grade in our course. That assignment is attached to this letter.

We are looking forward to meeting each of you in the fall. If you have any questions, please email or call your teacher. You may also check our Summer Reading Google Classroom for updates and/or questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Megan Spivey
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Mr. Stephen Marowitz
English Teacher
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OPTIONAL English 11 Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Narrative Nonfiction List - Choose one of these* and complete the assignment on the next page.

- *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard (memoir; autobiography)
- *Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Greely (memoir; self-image)
- *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* by Benjamin Franklin (also called his Memoirs; traditional historical autobiography)
- *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell (nonfiction; psychology)
- *Bossypants* by Tina Fey (memoir; humor)
- *Console Wars* by Blake J. Harris (nonfiction; technology)
- *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover (memoir; coming-of-age; resiliency)
- *Fire in a Canebrake* by Laura Wexler (narrative journalism; social issue of race)
- *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance (memoir; coming-of-age, familial issues)
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls (memoir; coming-of-age; redemption)
- *Plastic: A Toxic Love Story* by Susan Freinkel (nonfiction; environmental)

Disclaimer - Please make a careful selection and get your parents' approval. We selected books based on their artistic merit, the variety of topics and styles, and the author's experience and research. Keep in mind that these authors write passionately about a wide variety of topics of their personal interest and convictions. These books represent only their authors' opinions and are not necessarily those of your teachers or the Prince George County School District. Be sure that you take time exploring these books before making your final choice. Remember that you do not need to agree with an author's opinion to appreciate their craft of writing.

**If you want to choose a book that is not on this list, it must be approved by your instructor. It must be nonfiction, a minimum of 150 pages, and appropriate for a young-adult age group.*

Nonfiction Book Review—Memoir, Biography, Autobiography

Answer the following questions about the book that you chose to read.

Answer ALL questions in at least three sentences.

You may copy and paste this assignment into a separate Google Doc. Please include the questions on the Doc. If you do not have access to a computer, you may also write this in a journal specifically designated for this class.

Below, please include the book's title, author, and publication information, formatted as an MLA citation for a Works Cited page.

Example: Carr, Pat. *One Page at a Time*. Texas Tech UP, 2010.

- I.** What is the significance of the title, and what evidence can you cite from the text to support your claim?
- II.** What is your gut reaction to this text, and why did you react this way?
- III.** What motives might the author have for choosing to write this book?
- IV.** What social commentary does the writer seem to be creating? Who does this commentary seem to target?
- V.** What is the most important event or passage in the text and why? How does it help to create the outcome of the book?
- VI.** What “moves” or strategies does the author seem to use in a memorable way, OR what strategies does the author seem to use the most? (examples: imagery, researched facts, humor, irony, or a specific type of diction)
- VII.** What qualities of the subject (main character) of the book do you admire the most? The least? Why?
- VIII.** What effect does the book have on your beliefs, thoughts, and/or theories? Explain.
- IX.** What appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos do you notice?
- X.** Ultimately, what drew you to this book in particular?