

English 12 2011 Summer Reading Assignment

Directions

Write a **journal/diary entry** in the **voice** of your novel's main character (the one you focused on while reading this summer). The structure of your entry should resemble a diary or journal entry—make sure to use **FIRST PERSON**.

In your journal entry, you must discuss a major **conflict or decision** he or she faced in the text. Make sure to include:

- how the character handles the conflict or decision,
- what was the outcome of the conflict or decision,
- how the character changed/evolved over the course of the story.

Your entry should demonstrate your knowledge of the character's:

- a) perspective,
- b) motives,
- c) relationships with others, and
- d) unique voice (what is distinctive about the way the character expresses him/her self.)

**Make sure to reference/mention specific events that actually occurred in the novel and

Attach this sheet to the **BACK of your journal entry.

What to turn in:

You are expected to use the entire period to complete your journal entry. **You must return your notes with your journal entry.**

Scoring:

Journal entry- 40 points for homework/completion (due August 30, 2011)

Notes on character- 10 points for homework/completion (due August 30, 2011)

Honors English 12 – Summer Reading Possible Choices 2011

Task: Read one of the novels from this list or choose your own first-person fictional narrative. The text may not be a selection from a previous English class or summer reading assignment. As you read the novel, concentrate on one of the major characters in the novel. Use the attached graphic organizer to take notes. You will turn in the completed organizer and use it to write a journal entry on the second day of school, Tuesday, August 30th, 2011.

Notes: 10 points completion

Writing: 40 points completion

Suggested Book List

***19 Minutes* by Jodi Picoult**

A school shooting in a small town makes everyone question his or her neighbors and his or her role in mass murders.

***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**

A young black girl wishes for beautiful blue eyes.

***A Mercy* by Toni Morrison**

A slave at a Maryland plantation offers her daughter, Florens, to a Northern slave owner in an effort to give her a better life. The novel follows the different perspectives of slaves, indentured servants, and property owners.

***The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand**

It is the story of a renegade architect and the woman who loves him.

***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini**

Two women are forced into marriage, one by her father, and another by her circumstances. The women struggle with oppression and war in Afghanistan. Hosseini also authored *The Kite Runner*.

***The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards**

During a blizzard, Dr. David Henry is forced to deliver his own twins. Seeing that one twin is normal and one has Down Syndrome, he makes a split-second decision that will forever alter the family's lives.

***Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides**

In order to understand why she is not like other girls, Calliope must uncover a dark family secret and the astonishing genetic history that turns Callie into Cal. Pulitzer Prize Winner.

***The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**

A man and his son struggle to survive in post-apocalyptic world. They follow the road to the ocean, fighting against the bad people and scavenging for food. Pulitzer Prize Winner

***The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

Gogol Ganguli is born in the U.S. to Indian parents. He grows up trying to balance the two cultures.

***Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert M. Pirsig**

A philosophical book that examines the question of what is moral?

***Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

A Baptist family moves to the Congo as missionaries and struggles to survive.

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

Oskar, a precocious nine-year old boy struggles with the loss of his father after September 11th. He goes on a New York city adventure to find the lock that matches a mysterious key he discovered amid his father's belongings.

***The Time Traveler's Wife* by Andrew Niffeneggar**

Henry, a librarian, and Claire, a beautiful artist, are bound by love and as they travel throughout time.

***My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult**

Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for her older sister, Kate.

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

A classic novel about a young English woman struggles to find her place in society and true love despite a mysterious presence at her new home.

Prep by Curtis Sittenfeld

A Midwestern girl feels like an outsider at her exclusive East coast boarding school.

NY Times Best Book of the Year

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

A young sailor is betrayed by a friend and is sent to jail. He then escapes and plots his revenge.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Lily Owens lost her mother at a young age and has been cared for by a black woman named Rosaleen. The two women flee to a new town when racist tensions in their town become too dangerous.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

A young boy survives 227 days shipwrecked in the Pacific Ocean. It explores the issues of religion and spirituality. Man Booker Prize Winner

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

Susie, a teenage girl, is abducted, raped and killed. She looks down from heaven at her family and observes what goes on earth as others figure out what happened to her.

What is the What by Dave Eggers

Valentino Achak Deng tells the story of how he survived war and life in a refugee camp in Sudan and Ethiopia, and his experience immigrating to the United States.

The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

In Botswana, a female detective helps to solve the mysteries of her village and solve problems in the villagers' lives.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Fourteen-year-old Arnold Spirit tries to find a balance in his life between who he is on and "off the rez" when he attends a rich white school. He is often bullied, but he finds ways to cope through humor, drawing, and basketball.



Honors English 12 Summer Reading Graphic Organizer

Novel: _____ Author: _____ Character's Name: _____

Directions: Focus on a main character to complete the columns below. Include at least five examples (and page #s) in each column.

Character's needs, motives, hopes, etc.	How the character conveys his or her point of view (e.g. diction, tone, interaction with others)	How the character communicates his or her voice (e.g. syntax, diction, dialogue, character development)

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