

2016 Summer Reading Assignment: Pre-AP English 9 and Pre-AP English 10

Buckhorn High School

Freshmen and sophomores who are scheduled to take Pre- AP English 9 and/or Pre-AP English 10 are required to complete the following reading assignment. The novel will be utilized during the first week of school for class discussions and timed writing assignments, so it will be in your best interest to read and annotate thoroughly. Please be advised that each page should have an annotation!

Required reading: Read and annotate

9th: *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak

10th: *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien*

* Contains some mature themes and language

Annotating Guidelines for Fiction

Annotating allows you to have an active “dialogue” with a story. Reading is an active process. As you read a text, you should have questions, predictions, and opinions about what you are reading. Annotating also helps you navigate the book again when you need to prepare for tests, essays, and class discussions.

Annotating is a selective process. You do not want to mark everything because then nothing would stand out.

EVERYONE MUST ANNOTATE IN HIS OR HER OWN WAY, but to help you determine what to mark, here are some suggestions:

BASIC ELEMENTS OF STYLE AND STRUCTURE

- ◆ **Setting** - make notes about the time, place, etc.
- ◆ **Characters**- make note of each character’s name the first time you see it. Also mark the passages that describe the character’s:
 - Physical appearance
 - Motivations behind his/her actions
 - Relationships to other characters
 - Personality (especially changes in personality)
- ◆ **Plot** - events of rising action, climax, falling action and resolution • Identify conflict types (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Self, Man vs. Nature, etc.)
 - Make notes periodically at the tops of pages to help you remember
- ◆ **Vocabulary**-Look up words you do not understand. When you find a definition for the word, you may want to write a synonym out to the side.
- ◆ **Tone** – Tone is the attitude implied in a literary work toward the subject and the audience. The following figures of speech may help when identifying tone in literature.
 - **Metaphor** -comparison between two otherwise unlike things (i.e. *Love is a Rose, Life is a Roller Coaster, All the World’s a stage*, etc.)
 - **Simile** –comparison of two things often using “like” or “as” (i.e. *Brave as a lion, Fits like a glove, Moves like a snail*, etc.)
 - **Diction** – words with significant connotation (beyond the literal meaning)
 - **Imagery** – appeals to any one of the five senses (taste, touch, smell, sight, hearing)
 - **Details** – important and noteworthy facts

- **Language** – the sound of the text (formal, informal, colloquial/particular geographical location, etc.)
- **Syntax** – basic sentence structure, punctuation, arrangement of words in a sentence, etc.
- **Point of View** - The way the events of a story are communicated from the author to the reader. For further details look up the definitions for 1st, 2nd and 3rd person POV.

FOCUS ON QUOTES

Quotes can be any length, but try to be clear, concise, and focused in your selections. The following suggestions may be helpful in identifying quotes:

- ◆ **Important or Striking Passages** • Make note of quotes that you find interesting, or that “speak” to you in some way.
- ◆ **Confusing Passages** • If you find yourself baffled, offended, or puzzled, you may want to write a question in the margin to mark that passage/quote for clarification or discussion at a later time.
- ◆ **Thought-Provoking Passages** • Look for passages that might provoke discussion about book.
 - Make connections to movies, current issues, history, or other pieces of literature
 - Look for commentary on issues of a social, emotional, ethical (moral), or spiritual nature
 - Examination of human nature in general or how the book does or does not hold true today

The point of annotating is to both summarize and clarify. Use it to better understand and to explain what you have read.

Remember: Each highlighted or underlined passage and each symbol must be accompanied by a note. Take notes in the margin or, if necessary, use sticky notes.

We are excited to have you as part of our Pre-AP program. Enjoy your summer, and we will see you in August!

Tracy Wilson, Pre-AP English 9(twilson@mcssk12.org)

Andrea Hills, Pre-AP English 9(ahills@mcssk12.org)

Leah Johnson, Pre-AP English 10 (lejohnson@mcssk12.org)

Amelia White, Pre-AP English 10(ajwhite@mcssk12.org)