

HonorsEnglish 9

Summer Reading 2018

Hello Honors English 9 students!

Honors English 9 promises to be a rigorous, yet rewarding course. We hope you are looking forward to next year as much as we are. To prepare you for the course, we would like you to complete the following summer reading assignments:

1. **Read** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. You will be working with this text in class so having your own copy is preferable. Any edition of the novel is fine. Take notes on the major events and the characters of the story. Bring your notes during the first week of class. Please do not download any notes from the internet.

2. **Answer one of the two following essay prompts** using *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. The prompt should be answered in no more than two pages. **Have your responses ready to hand in on the SECOND day of school.**

Prompt 1

In the novel, Arnold/Junior is torn between two lives: the reservation life he knows and the outside world he thinks he might want to be a part of. His friends at home call him "an apple" because he is "red on the outside and white on the inside" (132), and he seems to believe there is some mismatch between how he looks and how he is expected to act. Using the drawing of Arnold/Junior with a line down the middle of his body and labeled with "Indian" and "White" characteristics as a model, think about what identities make up who you are (it's fine to use more than two). Then, in a well-developed essay, explain the differences between the identities and explain how these identities synchronize or clash. How do these identities affect decision making, such as deciding what is right and what is wrong?

1. In your introductory paragraph, state the title (underline it) and author. Briefly outline the struggle that Arnold/Junior has in determining his identity.
2. In your first body paragraph, introduce one of your identities. Explain why you identify yourself this way and describe the characteristics that define you.
3. In your second body paragraph, introduce your next identity. Explain why you identify yourself this way and describe the characteristics that define you.
4. In your third body paragraph, explain how these identities clash or work together.
5. In your concluding paragraph, summarize your major points, explaining how the different identities make you who you are as a whole.

OR

After reading the chapter "How to Fight Off Monsters," identify the "unofficial and unwritten rules" that Arnold/Junior needs to follow both at home and at school. Think about what unwritten rules you are expected to follow in your life.

Then, write a well-developed essay outlining the rules that Arnold/Junior faces and comparing them to the rules in your own life.

1. In your introductory paragraph, state the title (underline it) and author. Also, state and explain the concept of "unofficial and unwritten rules."
2. In your first body paragraph, explain the rules that Arnold/Junior needs to follow. Explain why they are different in different places.
3. In your second body paragraph, introduce the unwritten rules that you are expected to follow at home. Explain how these rules were established and address whether you agree with them or wish to change them.
4. In your third body paragraph, introduce the unwritten rules that you are expected to follow in the rest of your life, be it at school, with friends, etc. Explain how these rules were established and your feelings toward them.
5. In the conclusion paragraph, explain how these unwritten rules affect Arnold/Junior, you, and society as a whole.

Enjoy your summer and take the time to do things you will not have time for once school starts again. The upcoming year will be a challenging one, but also rewarding and beneficial and maybe at times, fun. Enjoy your summer assignments, take the time to do them well, and if you have any questions or comments during the summer, please do not hesitate to email us at [Sara G Confino@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Sara_G_Confino@mcpsmd.org), [Mary L Frank@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Mary_L_Frank@mcpsmd.org), or [Rachel Pope@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rachel_Pope@mcpsmd.org).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sara Confino
Ms. Mary Frank
Dr. Rachel Pope