

June 2010
Summer Reading

Dear Incoming 9th Grade Students,

We are eager to meet you next year in your English class at Culver City High School. Before you join us in the fall, please read one of the novel choices below that we have chosen for your enjoyment. As you read, please annotate the text using the Annotation Guide on the back. Bring your book with annotations on the first day of class. Your summer reading annotation assignment and the accompanying essay will be your first major grades for the first quarter.

During the first week of school, all students will write an in-class essay about their book. An annotated book will help prepare you for this essay; if you're prepared, you have a better chance at earning a better grade.

If you are going into **English 9** choose from this list:

Nothing but the Truth by Avi
The Pigman by Paul Zindel
Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff
Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Christopher Crutcher
Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn
Big Mouth and Ugly Girl by Joyce Carol Oats

If you are going into **English 9 Honors** choose from this list:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon
House of Spirits by Isabel Allende
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Native Son by Richard Wright

A short synopsis of each of these novels is available on the Culver City High School web page. All of these titles are available for less than \$10 on Amazon.com. They are also available at most libraries; however, the annotations would need to be done on sticky notes for borrowed books (see Annotation Guide on back).

Enjoy your summer and your reading!
Sincerely,

Freshmen English Teachers

Annotation Guide

An important first step in analyzing literature is annotating the text. Basically, annotation is taking notes in your text as you read to help you keep track of your thinking. If you borrow a book from the library, you will need to take your notes on Post-Its or the like. If you purchase your own copy of the book, you can take your notes directly in the margin of the book. These books can be purchased for under \$10 online and at bookstores as well. We highly encourage you to look into purchasing an inexpensive copy of the book so that you can bring your annotated text with you in September. If you borrow the book, you will need to buy sticky notes and keep track of library due dates to avoid late fees. It may be cheaper in the long run to buy the book!

Please annotate your book using the following method.

- Highlight key words, phrases, or sentences. Write what you find significant about this part of the text in the margin. ***Anything you highlight with a highlighter marker is not considered annotation unless you also write out in the margin why you highlighted that part of the text.***
- Write questions, comments and connections (within the text and with other texts you've read) in the margins.
- Summarize events every few pages.
- Highlight the actions and reactions of characters that seem especially revealing. Write out to the side what character traits are being revealed.
- Draw a square around words for which you don't yet know the definition.
- Circle words you find especially powerful. These words should bring to mind an image or emotion.

Annotation is a skill that will be reinforced each year in your English classes at Culver City High School. Learning to annotate effectively will serve you well in the future as you read and analyze challenging works of literature.