



Ocean City High School Summer Assignment 2021

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| Course | Honors English 9 | Teacher | Mrs. Pesda, Ms. MacDonald |
| Email | Mtracey78@yahoo.com tmacdonald@ocsdnj.org | Due Date | Tests will be given the first week of school. You will also be working on a project the first two weeks of school involving both texts. Your notes will be used to study for the tests and as guides for your project. |
| Standards | RL.9-10.1, 9-10.2, 9-10.3 | | |
| Topic | The Alchemist / Educated | | |
| Purpose | To read critically and with purpose. To understand how character development, setting and plot create meaning in a work of fiction. To derive meaningful themes/messages from a work of fiction. To read nonfiction with critical attention to the author's argument and means of supporting his argument. | | |
| Text/Novel(s) & Brief Description | The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho (a classic work of fiction depicting an allegorical "journey") Educated, by Tara Westover (a nonfiction memoir about the author's attempt to reinvent herself and the painful severing of her family ties in order to do it.) | | |
| Approximate Time on Task | Aprox. 15-20 hours, depending on reading and note-taking ability | | |
| Suggested Timeline | Begin late July or early August so that the reading is not rushed, but so that it is fresh upon entering high school. | | |
| How It Will Be Assessed | You will be tested separately on each book and will be working on a project dealing with the texts the first week of school. Both tests will require developed writing (full essay and/or paragraph responses) | | |

Read and annotate The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho. Please take notes as you read; focus on important details of plot, character, setting, symbolism and thematic importance. You will be expected to use them in class discussion. You will also be tested on the book.

Read and annotate Educated, by Tara Westover. Take notes on the following: Westover's family relationships; the pivotal moments for her in re-shaping herself; the power of education in her life; the key mentors in her life; Westover's character; and any themes that you notice. You will be

asked to bring your notes to class to use in class discussion. You will also use them to study for the test.

Annotating

Think of annotations as “showing your work” while you read just as you sometimes show your work in a math problem. You are showing what you are thinking while you read and analyze—later, when we discuss the book in class, or when you sit down to prepare for the test, your annotations will help you to remember what you were thinking as you were reading. Thinking is how you connect to the text. This, of course, requires ACTIVE participation with the text, engaging your mind while you read, not skimming the page. Listening to your iPod or the TV can split your focus so that you don’t have as much of a connection with the text. Marking important sections can also be helpful in locating them quickly in discussions.

If you are using a borrowed text, you’ll have to use sticky notes to complete your annotations. If you purchase the book, the most effective way to annotate is to highlight key information and use a pencil to write in the margins and inside covers.

Tips

- Write questions that you have along the margins of the pages.
- Highlight important phrases, pivotal turning points in the plot or in a character’s development, and details that seem important.
- Interact with the text on a personal level: highlight parts that you like or that you respond to emotionally
- Highlight passages that are directly related to emerging/developing themes in the book.
- Circle words of importance or words that you don’t know and need to look up.
- Use the inside front and back covers to keep a list of important characters, setting, themes, symbols, etc.
- Don’t go overboard! When we highlight too much, nothing stands out to review. Focus on the most important revelations. It shouldn’t take you too much extra time. It should be a fluent and organic method that takes place as you read.
- When you annotate well, you get more out of the text and you prepare effectively for assessments. Annotation will be an important part of reading this year, so you’re expected to start with these two texts. If you have any questions, feel free to email with them.