



**Ocean City High School
Summer Assignment 2022**

Course	ASL 3 HONORS	Teacher	Amy Andersen
Email	aandersen@ocsdnj.org	Due Date	Friday, 9/9/2022
Standards	7.1.AL.IPERS.2 , 7.1.AL.IPRET.3, 7.1.AL.IPRET.8		
Topic	Journey into the Deaf Community; Deaf author		
Purpose	Read an award-winning new novel by Deaf author, Sara Novic. Increase knowledge about sign language, lip-reading, disability and civil rights, isolation and injustice, great persistence, daring and joy. Historical and cultural mini lessons scattered throughout the text.		
Text/Novel(s) & Brief Description	<p>“True Biz?” by Sara Novic</p> <p>The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to pass their history finals, and have politicians, doctors, and their parents stop telling them what to do with their bodies. (hearing and cochlear implants) This revelatory novel plunges readers into the halls of a residential school for the deaf, where they’ll meet Charlie, a rebellious transfer student who’s never met another deaf person before; Austin, the school’s golden boy, whose world is rocked when his baby sister is born hearing; and February, the headmistress, who is fighting to keep her school open and her marriage intact, but might not be able to do both. Absorbing and assured, idiosyncratic and relatable, this is an unforgettable journey into the Deaf community and a universal celebration of human connection.</p>		
Approximate Time on Task	15 hours		
Suggested Timeline	3 weeks		
How It Will Be Assessed	Accuracy of responses to questions; fluency of signed responses to 5 of the given questions.		

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Due: First week of school, Fall 2022

- **Read *True Biz* by Sara Novic** [True Biz: A Novel: Novic, Sara: 9780593241509: Books: Amazon.com](#)
 - **All students enrolled in the course should**
 - Answer the following questions in written English.
 - Then select 5 of the questions and record video responses in ASL.
1. If you're part of the hearing community, how much did you know about the Deaf community and culture prior to reading this novel? What are some key aspects that you learned?
 2. For those part of the Deaf community, what was your overall impression of how the community was presented in the novel?
 3. Why was *True Biz* the right title for this story?
 4. Out of the three main storylines—Charlie, Austin and February—which one were you most engaged with? Who do you think had the weakest storyline?
 5. Why do you think Charlie's parents, especially her mother, were so insistent on the cochlear implant? How would Charlie's upbringing be different if she also could have learned ASL?
 6. February is the child of Deaf adults—why did she decide to work with Deaf students?
 7. Austin has it all—until it initially appears his sister is born hearing. What type of impact did this have on Austin and his relationship with his dad?
 8. When more tests are done, it shows that his sister is hard of hearing and his parents, especially his father, are considering getting her a cochlear implant, which horrifies Austin. Let's talk about the debate surrounding cochlear implants. Do you think his parents will still go through with getting one for his sister?
 9. How did Charlie change from when we met her to the end of the novel?
 10. The story is left open ended in many ways—what do you think happens next for Charlie, Austin and February? Will the school close for good?