



English Language Arts 1-2 Honors Summer Reading Packet Due Wednesday, August 9th, 2023

Mrs. Vecera

Summer Reading Choices:

Speak

Perks of Being a Wallflower

Breathing Underwater

Every Day

Directions:

1. Obtain a copy of one of the books listed above. You may purchase your own copy or visit a local library. Some texts are available for free online, as well!
2. Your answers must be TYPED in a 12 point, plain font and numbered to match the questions in this packet.
3. You will turn your work into CANVAS, our online learning platform. You will be able to start submitting your work the first day of school. If you struggle to submit your work digitally, you may bring a printed copy on the due date.
4. During the first week of school, you will submit your assignment to turnitin.com (checks for plagiarism, copying, and cheating). I will show you how to do this in class. To prepare for that, you will need your own email address. If you don't have one, please create one over the summer.

Dear Students,

Welcome to Deer Valley High School and your Language Arts 1-2 Honors class. My name is Ms. Sarah Vecera and I will be your teacher for this course. Included in this packet you will find the directions for your assignments over the summer, as well as a ba

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Sarah Vecera and I will be your child's teacher for ELA 1-2 Honors for the 2023-24 school year at Deer Valley High School. I look forward to meeting you and your students in August. In the meantime, included in this packet is the assigned work for over the summer holiday.

The Summer Reading Packet serves a variety of purposes. The first and most obvious one is to be sure students continue reading, learning, and thinking critically during the time away from the classroom. Summer Assignments are part of our DVHS ELA Honors program, and they should expect work next summer too! Secondly, it allows more room in the curriculum. During the school year students will be reading one book as individuals or as a group, and we will be focused on a classic text in our class lessons. This allows students to be exposed to classical literature while opening up the wide world of modern literature to be read for their leisure. I truly believe that if I can get a student to *enjoy* reading, they will begin helping themselves become more literate citizens. The third purpose of the Summer Reading Packet is that it allows me to get a baseline skill-level for each student, in terms of reading comprehension and analysis, and writing abilities. The last purpose (and the main reason for Assignment One) is to meet my students. All Honors and AP

Summer

interfere. But what happens when interfering would save the person's life? Or will prevent someone else from getting hurt? And what happens if A falls in love when tomorrow will be a new life?

Long Answer Questions:

1. Do you find A's rules ethical and justifiable? Explain why or why not. What exceptions should there be? Are any of the rules okay to break, and if so, why?
2. How does A change and develop over the course of the novel? What is the catalyst for this change and growth? What do you predict that A will do next?
3. Do the teenagers that A encounters seem real or believable to you? Why or why not? How did this affect you as you read the novel?

Book Two: The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky 720L Sensitive Content

#1 in Teen and Young Adult Literature on Amazon, New York Times Best Seller, American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and Best Book for Reluctant Readers

Summary: The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, Perks follows observant "wallflower" Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up. *Contains sensitive material.*

Long Answer Questions

1. Why do so many teens love this book? Why do they find it so relatable? Does it capture the feelings of an adolescent well? Explain why or why not.
2. Some of the main character's friends are homosexual or bisexual. How have American views on this topic changed over time? What has motivated this change in public opinion? What do you predict will happen over time when it comes to these types of issues?
3. Write an epilogue for the story—Where is our protagonist after he leaves high school? Does he attend college? Does he stay in touch with his friends? How does he take the lessons he learned here and apply them to adult life?

Book Three: Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson 690L Sensitive Content

(AVAILABLE AS FREE PDF ONLINE, INCLUDING MY CLASS WEBSITE UNDER ELA 1-2 HONORS ASSIGNMENTS)

New York Times Best Seller, A Michal L. Printz Honor Book, A National Book Award Finalist, An Edgar Allan Poe Award Finalist, Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year

Summary: Freshman year at Merryweather High is not going well for Melinda Sordino. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, and now her friends—and even strangers—all hate her. So she stops trying, stops talking. She retreats into her head, and all the lies and hypocrisies of high school become magnified,

Long Answer Questions

1. This is a novel that is actually on the Sophomore (non-Honors class) curriculum, though 20 years ago it would never have been allowed. How does this novel reflect the state of youth in America today, and how things have changed over recent generations? What do young men or women face today that is different than our parents? What is the same?
2. How does Melinda change and develop as a character throughout the novel? What helps her to change or grow? What obstacles hold her back from growing?
3. How could Melinda have changed her circumstances earlier than she did? What would have been needed to change her fate? Does she seem like a realistic character to you, in terms of her choices and reactions? Why or why not?

Book Four: Breathing Underwater by Alex Finn

510L (AVAILABLE AS PDF ONLINE)

Winner of the Black-Eyed Susan Award, An ALA Top 10 Best Book for Young Adults, An International Reading Association Young Adult Choices List Pick, A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age Pick