Allowing students to choose what they read is widely advocated by educational scholars, therefore your Honors English 9 teachers are providing you with the opportunity to do so! Students will read like writers to study their chosen author’s narrative structure, character development, and writing style. Your reading will serve as a starting point for critically analyzing the texts we study this year.

**Parameters and Guidelines for Choosing your Summer Reading Book:**

1. You may read nonfiction or fiction.

2. Get permission from your parents/guardians before you begin reading. Please show them this assignment sheet and have them complete the Parent/Guardian Permission Statement included before you begin reading. This will be collected on the first day of school.

3. The selection must represent your reading ability. Choose something that is not too easy or not too difficult for you. Young Adult literature is perfectly appropriate. We want you to read something you’re excited about, but not something geared for an audience younger than you.

4. Do not select a novel that we will be reading during class this year. Avoid any of the titles or authors listed on the CUSD Approved Reading List which is available on the following website: [www.cusd80.com/Page/45313](http://www.cusd80.com/Page/45313) It is your responsibility to do this before you read.

5. Select a book that you have never read before. We mean it! Don’t choose something that you have read previously as the work we complete at the start of the school year will feel and be redundant.

6. The copy of the book you choose should only have writing, highlighting, annotating, and note-taking from you. If you are checking out a book from your local library, you can either annotate using post-it notes or the annotation tools available online and/or in e-reader devices (make sure you can export them/evidence your work so your teacher is able to view and assess your thinking).

*We trust that you will make the right reading decision for you, so you do not need approval from the English 9 teachers, but you do need to receive the approval of your parent(s) or guardian(s) before you select your text.*
---

**Highlighting and Annotating Focus While Reading:** Because good readers interact with the text while reading, it is important that you do this as well.

**What will you highlight and annotate while you are reading?**
As you read, mark at least 10 passages that are particularly vivid or striking to you and write notes about what seems most compelling in the margins. You should also find at least two passages where your interest was lost in the reading and try to determine why. After you have finished reading the entire text, review the passages you marked and think about how the author uses detail and/or literary techniques to make the scenes memorable or relatable in some way, or where and why they may have failed to hold your interest. *Your highlighting and annotating should reflect your thinking about the impact of the author’s writing.*

Be prepared to discuss and analyze the passages from your chosen book and answer questions about them.

**When is my assignment due?**
Your reading, highlighting, and annotating should be finished and complete on the first day of class. Bring your book with you on the first day.

We hope that the freedom of reading choice inspires you to discover a new book that you love and motivates you to continue reading good books throughout the summer.

---

**Extra Information / Tips**
- Public libraries often offer free e-books. We recommend looking at the website of your local library to view their electronic catalogues and services.
- You can read and/or listen to your chosen book. Texts, downloads, and CD’s of books are available at and through the local library.

---

**To recap, your tasks are to do the following before the first day of school:**
- Self-select an appropriate novel, either fiction or nonfiction.
- Discuss your text selection with a parent/guardian. Then, obtain their approval (they must sign the permission slip before you begin reading).
- Read the novel.
- Mark at least 10 passages that are particularly vivid or striking to you and write notes about what seems most compelling in the margins.
- Find at least two places where your interest was lost in the reading and annotate why in the margins.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

This summer all incoming Honors 9 English students at Chandler High School will be required to read a novel of their choosing for their summer reading assignment. This will involve your student(s) reading a book by an author who may or may not be on the District’s Approved Authors List, and then crafting analytic and imaginative responses to those texts once the school year begins. This assignment is designed to allow students the freedom to choose what they will read and study, and the work students will engage in will lend to an understanding of how their selected author has engaged in craftsmanship to affect their readers and convey meaning.

As all authors explore different points of view and utilize language differently, we would like you, the student parent/caregiver to be aware of the nature of this assignment so that you are able to become actively involved in your child’s text selection. Please discuss your expectations regarding the language, subject matter and themes you are comfortable with them exploring as they select their novel. Talk with them about the text they would like to choose and ensure that you are comfortable with it’s subjects, themes and language. We are excited to afford our students the autonomy to select their own reading material and understand that in doing so, we must rely on their judgement and your approval.

Book reviews are readily available online, and Common Sense Media is a non-profit organization that “publishes independent ratings and reviews for nearly everything kids want to read” and their book ratings “are conducted by expert reviewers and aren’t influenced by the creators or by [their] funders.” This website may be of assistance when reviewing your child’s text selections. The web address for their book reviews is: www.commonsensemedia.org/reviews/

On the back of this letter there is a permission statement which we are requiring students to submit on the first day of class that indicates your approval of the book they have selected. Please contact your child’s Honors 9 English teacher or our English Department Chair, Catherine Jones, if you have any questions concerning this assignment (jones.catherine@cusd80.com). Thank you very much for your time and investment in your child’s learning; we are looking forward to the upcoming school year and to learning about each of the books our students select!

Sincerely,
Honors 9 English teachers
Chandler High School
480-812-7700
Chandler High School
Honors 9 English
Summer Reading Assignment: Self-Selected Novel Parent/Guardian Permission Slip

Students: please use ink to complete this form and complete the top portion of the form before they begin reading their selected novel.

Student Name:___________________________________________________________________________

Book Title: __________________________________________________________________________

Author(s): ____________________________________________________________________________

Number of Pages: ____________  □ fiction  □ non-fiction

*******************************************************************************

Parents/Guardians: Please take a moment to read the letter that accompanies this permission slip and ensure that the information requested above has been provided by your child before you sign the acknowledgment below.

I, ______________________________________, am aware that my child will be reading the above named book this summer for their Honors English 9 class. I understand that this book was selected by my child and I approve of the author(s), subject matter, and language it contains and grant them permission to read this novel.

Parent/Guardian Signature: ______________________________________________________________

Date: ____________________