Bay Shore High School English Department
11-300 Summer Reading Assignment

Summer 2019

Dear Students,

We are pleased that you will be joining us in English 11-300 next year. In order to prepare for both the work that lies ahead and for the S.A.T., it is vital that students read in order to hone vocabulary, reading comprehension, and analytical thinking skills. Most importantly, however, we hope to encourage and nurture a love of reading in all of our students.

The summer reading assignment will be for you to choose one of the titles from the book selection listed on the next page. In addition, you will be required to keep a reader's log that addresses specific aspects of the novel. You are to adhere to the attached instructions in order to successfully complete this assignment. Your log will assist you in composing a Regents-style essay based upon your reading when you return in September. Your log will be due and your essay will be written within the first few weeks of school. Should you have any concerns or questions while working on this assignment, you may e-mail Mrs. Herbst at jherbst@bayshore.k12.ny.us or Ms. Handley at shandley@bayshore.k12.ny.us.

Your selected book may be obtained from the library, bookstore, or the English Department. Books borrowed from the department may be checked out from Monday, June 10th through Wednesday, June 12th, after school until 2:25 in room 316. Mrs. Herbst will provide you with the desired book, at which time you will fill out a book card. Your book must be returned in the same condition as you received it in September.

Please let Mrs. Herbst (room 316) or Ms. Handley (room 323) know if you any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you next year. Happy reading!
Choose one of the following titles:

**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou
Maya Angelou's autobiographical novel which details the poverty, abuse, and struggles she endured during the 1930s-40s in Arkansas.

**Angela's Ashes** by Frank McCourt
Frank McCourt details his harrowing, poverty-stricken, nevertheless, hopeful childhood in the slums of Limerick, Ireland, as well as his young adulthood in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Nectar in a Sieve** by Kamala Markandaya
A 12-year old girl is forced to marry an older man in India, and struggles to keep her family together.

**A Separate Peace** by John Knowles
Finnny and Gene are two best friends (and worst enemies) struggling with their inner demons in 1943.

**Autobiography of Malcolm X** by Alex Haley
The life, struggles, imprisonment, and triumphs of Malcolm X are revealed.
READER’S LOG INSTRUCTIONS

Your task: The minimum length required for your reader's log is 5-typed, double-spaced pages. You may choose to concentrate on some or all of the questions or topics below. The log should be typed in paragraph format. You do not need to answer all questions... this is simply a guide!

For instance, you may find that you are able to write 5 pages from reflecting upon one question. Alternatively, you may opt to write a paragraph addressing each of the 10 questions. The goal is to reflect upon the social, economic, political, and literary values and messages of the novel.

QUESTIONS:

1) How are culture and cultural attitudes of major influence in this novel?

2) What is the impact of the time period upon the character’s lives and interactions with the world?

3) Are there particular morals/life lessons embedded within the novel?

4) What is the most important chapter of this novel? Why?

5) Why and how does one main character change in a positive or negative way?

6) What can the reader learn about the impact of family upon the characters’ lives?

7) How would the premise of the novel change had it been set in the year 2018?

8) What are 3 questions you have about the events and characters in the novel?

9) How does the author’s writing style impact the reader’s perception of characters and events?

10) Does the novel end in the manner you expected? Why or why not?

***PLAGIARISM OF ANY TYPE WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE.***