

Kirtland High School – English 9

The BIG Summer Read 2018

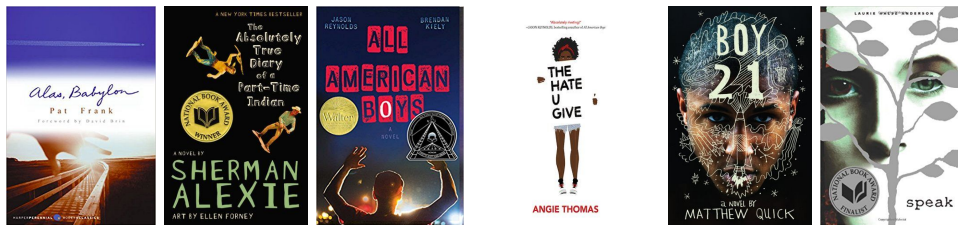
Welcome to English 9! I look forward to helping you transition to high school in the fall. Our first few weeks of school will be devoted to the study and discussion of your summer reading assignment. Please do not procrastinate and wait until the week before school starts to begin reading and completing your journal, or you will not finish. In order to have a productive start to your school year, you must read the following two novels to the best of your ability. Your work should always reflect careful reading and personal insight. You will be assessed on your careful reading during the first week of school with a variety of in-class activities. Have a fun, safe, and productive summer!

<p><i>Why read during the summer?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Researchers have proven that reading increases vocabulary and that reading and writing skills are inextricably connected to each other. ● Good writers are good readers. Written and oral communication is most effective when you have a command of language and a broad vocabulary; reading gives you exposure to descriptive and rich vocabulary used in well-written and powerful phrases and sentences. ● The accuracy and effectiveness of your communication is determined by your ability to read critically. ● Reading can be one of the most satisfying and personal life-long habits you will ever develop. ● Reading gives you knowledge and knowledge is power.
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“Read not to contradict, nor to believe, but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some to be digested. That is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.” -- Francis Bacon

Education is a year-round endeavor. For your course of study, you must read two novels: one from the list of highly recommended YA books and one free choice.

In addition to the assigned readings, please keep a (1) 4 **Reader-Response journal** entries for each novel and (2) a **Vocabulary Log** of new words with their page numbers and definitions with a **minimum of 8 words**. Please follow the directions for the reader-response journal at the end of the book list.



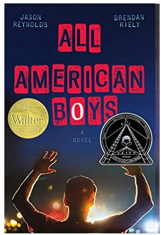
Optional: Follow and/or use #KHS9BSR to participate in Twitter chats this summer!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at andreha.odonnell@kirtlandschools.org

BOOK YOUR SUMMER!

Assignment #1: Choose ONE of the following contemporary YA novels:

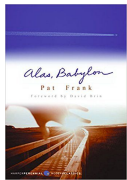
***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**



A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature.

In this *New York Times* bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

A bag of chips. That's all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad's pleadings that he's stolen nothing for belligerence, mistakes Rashad's resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad's every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance and refusal to STAY STILL as ordered. But how can you stay still when someone is pounding your face into the concrete pavement? (Amazon.com)



***Alas, Babylon* by Frank Pat**

The day after the bomb dropped, the thousands of years of "progress" that had covered the treacheries and lusts of ordinary man with a thin veneer of civilization were dissolved and melted like snow on the desert's dusty face. Then the law of the jungle reigned. But in the wreckage a few courageous survivors, men and women with the guts to have hope, were determined to build a new and better world on the ruins of the old. This is their story. (Amazon.com)

***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

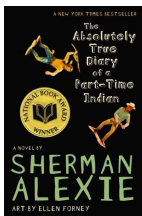
2018 William C. Morris Award



Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life. (Amazon.com)

***The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie** 2007 National Book Award winner



Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live. (Amazon.com)

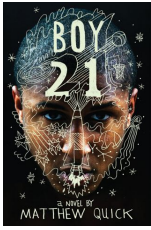
***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

1999 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature



"Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication. In this powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself. (Amazon.com)

Boy 21 by Matthew Quick



“You can lose yourself in repetition--quiet your thoughts; I learned the value of this at a very young age.” Basketball has always been an escape for Finley. He lives in broken-down Belmont, a town ruled by the Irish mob, drugs, violence, and racially charged rivalries. At home, his dad works nights, and Finley is left to take care of his disabled grandfather alone. He's always dreamed of getting out someday, but until he can, putting on that number 21 jersey makes everything seem okay.

Russ has just moved to the neighborhood, and the life of this teen basketball phenom has been turned upside down by tragedy. Cut off from everyone he knows, he won't pick up a basketball, but answers only to the name Boy21--taken from his former jersey number. As their final year of high school brings these two boys together, a unique friendship may turn out to be the answer they both need. (Amazon.com)



Assignment #2: Free Choice. Select a book that will challenge and interest you. You may choose any genre (historical fiction, fantasy, memoir, sports, nonfiction, biography, poetry).

READER-RESPONSE JOURNAL: First, you will need a composition notebook, which you may continue to use as a journal in your English class next fall. This notebook will act as a portfolio of your individual learning and interaction with the texts.

Complete a **minimum of 4 full page spreads filled out in a composition book for each novel (a total of 8 full page spreads combined for both books)**. Organize your notebook using the following method:

- Open up the notebook so you have a left and a right hand page.
- Make sure you record the date, title of your book, and page numbers you read for this entry on the left hand side of the notebook.
- On the **right hand side** of the notebook, you may take notes, summarize the section of reading, or record quotes.
- On the **left hand side** of the notebook, you may be more creative: express opinions and feelings, discuss key points and main ideas, and record personal reflections.

Reading for Personal/Creative Reflection Options for the left-hand page of the notebook (pg. 1A)	Reading for Understanding Options for the right-hand page of the notebook (pg. 1B)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Process new ideas and think things through• Reflection on quotes• Personal reflections and thoughts• Poetry you found/created that relate• Cartoons that relate to the book• “what if” hypothetical situations• Questions• How you relate personally – comparison to your own life• Reminds you of something else you have read about or seen• Reactions to situations in the book• Any creative connection to the book	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading notes (<i>HINT: Think about the Elements of Literature such as plot/conflicts, characters/characterization, impact of setting, point of view/perspective(s), theme(s), figurative language, etc.</i>)• Summary of the section you just finished reading• Facts• Quotes from the book that you want to reflect on or you feel are significant