

2017 – 2018 Summer Reading List & Assignments - HONORS

*Unless otherwise noted, any full version of a text is acceptable.
Each assignment will be due on the first day of school.
Any student who would like to earn +5 bonus points
may turn in his/her project at Open House.*

HONORS American Literature

Summer Reading: *The Chosen* – Chaim Potok
As you read the novel, respond to the discussion questions and explain the quotes. Upon completion of the novel, organize and write your essay. This will be due on the first day of class and we will have a test within the first week of school.

In – class Readings: *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Scarlet Letter – Nathaniel Hawthorne
To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee
The Old Man and the Sea – Ernest Hemingway
A Separate Peace – John Knowles

Honors Summer Reading Assignment.

The Chosen – Chaim Potok.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe both the physical and mental characteristics that are common to both Danny and Reuven as well as that which separates them and makes them unique.
2. When Danny and Reuven meet in the library to study, the differences between Danny and Reuven becomes apparent. How do they differ in this area? Considering high school and college, what do they have in common as well? Considering their fathers, how is this somewhat ironic?
3. There is much controversy over Zionism. What is it? Why is it a controversy? And who is on which side? What is the outcome?
4. How does the problem Danny has with his Psychology teacher and Reuven's experience in Rav Gershenson's class show the reader about the young men they are and the men they will no doubt be?

MY Quote Explanation:

For each of the following quotes do each of the following:

- Identify the speaker(s).
 - To whom is he speaking? What are the circumstances where this is said?
 - How does this relate to the rest of the book? Or, why is this an important quote?
1. *"What does it mean to have to suffer so much if our lives are nothing more than the blink of an eye? ... I learned a long time ago that a blink of an eye in itself is nothing. But the eye that blinks, that is something. A span of life is nothing. But the man who lives that span, he is something. A man must fill his life with meaning, meaning is not automatically given to life. It is hard work to fill one's life with meaning. That I do not think you understand yet. A life filled with meaning is worthy of rest. I want to be worthy of rest when I am no longer here."*

2. *"One learns of the pain of others by suffering one's own pain, by turning inside oneself, by finding one's own soul. And it is important to know of pain. It destroys our self pride, our arrogance, our indifference towards others."*

3. *"...It is continuing?"*
"Yes."
His face was sad. "A father can bring up a child any way he wishes, "he said softly. "What a price to pay for a soul."

YOUR Quote Explanation:

I chose three quotes for you to identify and explain. Now it is your turn. You will select 3 quotes that you think are representative of something significant from within the narrative. Just like above, explain why you chose them and be clear. You may choose anything that is insightful and shows your ability to read a text carefully and apply the elements of literature to a particular text. Consider areas such as character, tone, theme, foreshadowing, mood, and anything else you've mastered in your English courses thus far.

If you are considering a trip to sparknotes or another of her dastardly cousins, please think twice. Those sites rob you of a genuine educational experience. Yes, an experience that might mean struggles with understanding and perspective. Without including these potholes and speedbumps in your education, we pave a wide, easy path and then celebrate an empty victory of arriving at the finish line safely. You are old enough now for me and your parents to expect that you own your own education and take the role of being active and avoiding the embarrassing journey of apathy and passivity. If this is a habit you have and would like to continue, this may not be the best course for you.

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email
I cannot guarantee that I will respond quickly as I tend to shut down some of my connectivity over the summer.
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