

# West Seneca East Senior High School

4760 Seneca St.

West Seneca, NY 14224

June 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians of English I Students:

Summer reading is part of East Senior's English curriculum. Reading during the summer develops lifelong reading habits. Answering the analysis questions assists students in preparing for the New York State Common Core Regents Exam. We do recognize that this summer may be more challenging than others in regards to completing the summer reading assignment. We have therefore made some changes for this summer only.

This year we will be providing a book list for students entering English I, although we do acknowledge it might be difficult to get certain books off the list if local libraries do not open. Therefore, *for this summer only*, the list attached is of *suggested* titles. It can help guide students to a book that is aligned with their reading level. If students cannot obtain a book from this list, they can choose a book of their own choice to read. Students are required to read at least one book either on the summer reading list or of their choice and complete the East Senior Summer Reading Assignment. Students should read the book and complete the Summer Reading Assignment questions by **Friday, September 11, 2020**.

For this summer only, if students complete the Summer Reading Assignment it will be counted as **extra credit** for the first marking period. In other words, completing the assignment will help student averages for Q1. Not completing the assignment (for this summer only) will *not* negatively affect students' Q1 averages.

Books may be obtained through the district app SORA (ebooks and audiobooks), purchased at a bookstore, or borrowed from a local library if they reopen soon. In addition, books may be available in digital format or free on sites such as Project Gutenberg. Students will need to use their books to complete the Summer Reading Assignment questions.

We believe this program will enhance our students' reading skills. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to an exciting and successful school year with your children.

Sincerely,

The Faculty of the West Seneca East English Department



## East Senior Summer Assignment:

**Directions:** Choose **8 out of the 10** questions below. Answer the questions based on the book you have selected to read. Your responses should be written in complete sentences and printed on lined paper or typed on the computer. Be sure to read the questions carefully and answer *all* parts of the question if more than one are being asked!

1. Why do you think the author chose the title he/she did? Analyze its deeper meaning. If the title is obvious, rename it something more symbolic and explain your reasoning.
2. What is the setting (time and place) of your book? Explain why the author chose this particular setting.
3. From whose point of view is this story being told? Are there other voices who could tell the story? Why do you think the author chose to have the story told from this character's point of view and not another character's?
4. What is the main conflict that the characters must overcome? How was this conflict resolved? Are you satisfied with the conclusion? Explain.
5. Do you think the characters and their conflicts are believable/realistic? Why or why not?
6. Describe the author's writing style and use of language. Remember, an author's style is *the way they use words* and it *varies from author to author*, and depends upon one's *syntax*, (*word choice*), and *tone*. It can also be described as a "voice" that readers listen to when they read the work of a **writer**.
7. Choose a character from the book and discuss how the character matures or changes. Do they learn any lessons? Explain.
8. Choose one quotation from the book that you think shows the book's theme or central message. Explain how the quote relates to the theme/central message.
9. Were you satisfied with the ending of the book? Explain. If you were the author, would you have ended the book differently? How? Why?
10. a) When did you get stuck while reading? (If you didn't get stuck, go to "b") What was confusing about your book? What strategies did you use to overcome these challenges?  
  
b) What did you enjoy most about this book? Who would you be most likely to recommend it to? Why?

# Summer Reading List for Students Entering English I, 2020

**\*\*Again, these are suggested titles. If a book from this list cannot be obtained, students can choose their own book to read.**

## Teen Issues

- *Skin* by Adrienne Maria Vrettos
- *Story of a Girl* by Sara Zarr

## Sports

- *Heat* by Mike Lupica
- *Crackback* by John Coy

## Adventure

- *The Trap* by John Smelcer
- *Within Reach: My Everest Story* by Mark Pfitzer

## Fantasy/Other Worlds

- *The Probable Future* by Alice Hoffman

## Science & Technology

- *What the World Eats* by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio

## Romance

- *24 Girls in 7 Days* by Alex Bradley
- *Sweethearts* by Sara Zarr

## Historical Fiction

- *Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers

## Mystery/Suspense/Thrillers

- *Peeled* by Joan Bauer
- *Dead Girls Don't Write Letters* by Gail Giles

## Friendships

- *Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta
- *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Conner

## Social Issues

- *The Sledding Hill* by Chris Crutcher

## Guy Stuff

- *You Don't Know Me* by David Klass
- *Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt

## Non-Fiction

- *Knots in my Yo-yo String* by Jerry Spinelli
- *My Life in Dog Years* by Gary Paulsen

## Multi-Cultural

- *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali* by Walter Dean Myers
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

## Classics

- *The Complete Stories of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle