

# Gibbs High School



## 2019-2020 Summer Reading

English II CP

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**Assignments Due Date:** Friday, August 16, 2019 - regardless of which semester you take the class!

### Overview:

You will be reading *The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner for English II CP. There will be specific assignments due with each novel. You should also expect an objective test over the novel.



Hardcover



Paperback

### Novel Description: Dillard Early Jr., Travis

Bohannon, and Lydia Blankenship are three friends who have one thing in common: none of them fit the mold in tiny Forrestville, Tennessee. Dill, a talented musician, grew up in a Pentecostal snake handling church, playing in the praise band. During his freshman year, his father went to prison for a heinous crime, leaving Dill and his mother impoverished.

Travis is a gentle giant who works at his family's lumberyard and is obsessed with a Game of Thrones–like fantasy series, much to his abusive, alcoholic father's displeasure.

Lydia comes from a loving upper-middle-class family and runs a popular fashion blog that's part Tavi Gevinson, part Angela Chase, and part Dolly Parton. She's actively plotting her escape from rural Tennessee for bigger and better things, to capitalize on her Internet fame. This will mean leaving behind Dill—whose feelings for her run deep.

But that's not Dill's only problem. He has a cursed name. His grandfather, Dillard Early, became consumed with slaughtering snakes in grief and vengeance after one killed his daughter. He wore their skins pinned to his clothes during his descent into darkness. The whispering and staring locals called him "the Serpent King" before he committed suicide by poison. Dill's father, also named Dillard Early, was the pastor of Dill's church, whose parishioners handled serpents and drank poison as signs of faith.

Caught between his mother's pulling him to drop out of school to help pay off the family debts and Lydia's pushing him to go to college to escape Forrestville's whispers and stares, Dill is quickly approaching a reckoning. One that will force him to confront the legacy of darkness—serpents and poison and self-destruction—that is his inheritance.

[Review from [JeffZentnerBooks.com](http://JeffZentnerBooks.com).]

### **PARENTAL ADVISORY:**

This novel represents some of the religious fervor of the deep south and the dangers of familial success being put before personal success. This novel contains teen death (not suicide), mild language, and mild violence.

### **PLAGIARISM:**

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

“Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

### **CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision

### **Assignments:**

**Assignment #1** – 50 points (mandatory)

Read *The Serpent King* and complete the reading journal assignment below. The journal may be handwritten or typed and should be at least 650 words.

In this journal you should respond, take notes, and summarize as you read. When you begin a new entry, put the entry # at the top of the page and date. The journal should be sectioned according to the following chapters:

- Entry #1: Chapters 1-6
- Entry #2: Chapters 7-12
- Entry #3: Chapters 13-18
- Entry #4: Chapters 19-25
- Entry #5: Chapters 26-32
- Entry #6: Chapters 33-39
- Entry #7: Chapters 40-47
- Entry #8: Chapters 48-53

Each entry should have the following:

1. A summary of what you’ve just read.
2. A personal response to what you’ve just read – any of the following:
  - a. Anything that shocked/surprised you
  - b. The parts that you found interesting and why
  - c. Parts that you especially enjoyed or didn’t enjoy
  - d. Any questions that you have about the reading or things that you didn’t understand.

Be sure to read the plagiarism statement noted above.

**Assignment #2** – 50 points (Choose Option A, Option B, or Option C. *Not all.*)

**Option A- Collage**

Create a Summer Reading Collage on *The Serpent King*. Instructions are below:

1. Use half of a regular sized poster board and create a collage which correlates directly with the novel. The board must be completely covered with no white showing!! Dimensions of your poster board should be 14” x 22”.
2. Write a short review of the novel (on white paper no larger than 5” x 7”) and place it on the collage where it can be easily seen. Your review should be typed or neatly written in marker or pen. Rate the book out of 5 stars (ex. I give this book 4 / 5 !!) and briefly explain your reasoning. Also provide the title, the author, the number of pages and a brief summary (no more than a paragraph or two).

**Option B- Fashion Design**

Create a fashion design that summarizes a character, scene, or theme from the novel.

Instructions are below:

1. Use a blank t-shirt (or other piece of appropriate clothing - tie, hat, skirt, jacket, scarf, etc) and create a design. This design could be artistic or could be a written summary accompanied by icons, pictures, and symbols that represent ideas of the novel. The piece of clothing should be mostly covered with your design.
2. You must type a short paragraph (at least 200 words) explaining how your artistic design/icons/symbols represent ideas and themes from the novel.

**Option C- Write a Song or Rap**

Write an original song based on a character, scene, or theme from the novel. Instructions are below:

1. To receive a grade for your original song, you must either record your song and submit a CD or flash drive with the song on it OR you may perform your song for the class. The song/rap must be at least 2:00 minutes in length.
  - a. NOTE: You may use a pre-existing karaoke track to record your song. You don't have to compose the original music, but the *lyrics* must be original.
2. You must type a short paragraph (at least 200 words) explaining how your song or rap represents ideas and themes from the novel.

**Presentation of Assignments:**

You will need to present your assignments in a **two pocket folder**.

- On the front of your folder, you need to have *your full name, teacher's name, and semester* (Fall 2018 or Spring 2019) printed neatly.
- Put the reading journal entries, assignment #1, *in order* in the left pocket.
- Put any materials from assignment #2 in the right pocket (summaries, CD, flash drive, other written materials).
- If you have a poster or an article of clothing, you will turn it in to your teacher (Ms. Blaylock or Mrs. Green) with your folder. It should also have your name and semester clearly labeled.

**Remember: All assignments (for Fall or Spring!!) are due on August 17, 2018!!**