

Honors English – 9th Grade Summer Reading

Read each of the following:

Anthem by Ayn Rand

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai, edited by Christina Lamb*

*Please make sure that you get the version edited by Christina Lamb. There is another version of the text intended for an elementary audience that will not offer students the same level of depth and insight. You should be able to find the full version from any bookseller or library, but here is a link to help you identify the right one: https://www.amazon.com/Am-Malala-Stood-Education-Taliban/dp/0316322423/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1FTMZPO15SOSS&keywords=i+am+malala&qid=1651773593&sprefix=i+am+mal%2Caps%2C148&sr=8-1

Synopsis of each work:

Anthem by Ayn Rand is not just a story about the individual being swallowed by the collective. This book also deals with an identification of how that can happen and what ideas people must first accept before such a totalitarian society can take hold. *Anthem* is not merely a story about the horrible, depressing life of people in a collectivist society; it is also about the triumph of the individual's independent spirit and the triumph of those who reject the ethics of collectivism. **(Annotations required) Please annotate for literary devices (figurative language), plot points, character development, and thematic ideas (themes, symbols, and motifs).**

I Am Malala takes the reader through the domino effect of dogmatic ideology on young people who want autonomy over their education, their religion, their lives. In 2007, the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan and barred girls from attending any type of school. Refusing to adhere to the Taliban orders, Malala Yousafzai's father continued to run a girls' school in secret. Malala and her father began voicing their views on the equality of education even in the palpable fear set by the Taliban. On October 9, 2014, as she was riding a bus home from her school, three Taliban soldiers boarded her bus and asked specifically for Malala. One of the soldiers shot her at point-blank range, but remarkably and miraculously, she survived. This attempt on her life did not deter her or her father from championing for every girl in every country and every religion to receive an education. **(Annotations required). Please annotate for anything to do with time. You will be creating a timeline of Malala's homeland's history and her life. At the end of each chapter write a simple summary or bullet points of important details. (Sticky notes work well if this is not your book)**

(Before jumping into annotation, please watch the video linked below. Watch how this honors student hones her annotation skills and simplifies the process beginning around minute 2:41)

What is annotation, and why do we do it?

- [Click here to watch an informative video on how to annotate effectively.](#)

Tools: Highlighter, Pencil, and Your Own Text

1. **Highlighter:** While you read, highlight key information. If you choose to put a key at the front of the book, you can easily use different colors to highlight for different things: figurative language, symbols, plot points, characterization, themes etc. *If you use only one highlighter color, make sure you annotate explaining why that particular passage is important.* Do not simply highlight the text.
2. **Pen or Pencil:** While you read, use marginalia—marginal notes—to mark key material. Marginalia can include check marks, question marks, stars, arrows, brackets, and written words and phrases. *Create your own system for marking what is important, interesting, quotable, questionable, and so forth.*
3. **Your Text:**

On the inside front and back cover of your book you may want to include the following:

- List of main characters
- Highlighter key and/or annotation key
- Quotable quotes with page numbers
- Make a list of vocabulary words on a back page or the inside back cover. Possible ideas for lists include the author's special jargon and new, unknown, or otherwise interesting words.

As you read, section by section, chapter by chapter, **consider doing the following:**

- At the end of each chapter or section, **briefly** summarize the material. (Sticky notes work well for this!)
- Title each chapter or section as soon as you finish it, especially if the text does not provide headings for chapters or sections.

If you have any questions or concerns about specific texts, email one of the two freshmen English teachers.

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