

## Summer Assignments 2019

### L&N STEM Academy

English II  
Mrs. Bays

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Welcome to our English II Course. Summer assignments are meant to help prepare you for the upcoming year and allow us to hit the ground running in August. One of the ways they help prepare you for the year is by letting you see the teacher's expectations and how she thinks about the class you're about to take. A second way they are meant to prepare you is by giving you a chance to practice the skills you'll be using throughout the year. Finally, they may introduce ideas or themes that run throughout the course, and by encountering them in the weeks before class starts, you're ready to begin discussing them and making connections early in the year. These assignments accomplish all three.

#### ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

Free pdf version: <http://www.pdfdrive.net/immortal-life-of-henrietta-lacks-e25121882.html>

Your first summer assignment is to read Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. This is a challenging non-fiction book, but it is very highly regarded and widely read. Difficult texts are made more manageable when approached with a clear question to guide your reading. Reading with a question in mind allows you to read with a purpose, and this makes reading both easier and more enjoyable.

I'd like you to read *Henrietta Lacks* with these questions in mind:

- What do healthy human relationships look like, and why are they important?
- What do we owe each other?

What answers to these questions does Skloot's book suggest? Pay particular attention to the relationship formed between the author, Rebecca Skloot, and Henrietta's daughter, Deborah.

You will be tested on your comprehension of the book and your ability to compose an essay that addresses these questions during the first few days of class.

**If you have questions or concerns about this assignment, please feel free to email Ms. Bays using the address listed above.**

## GoodReads.com Account Set-up

To complete your second summer assignment, you will need to set up a free account on GoodReads.com using your KCS email address. Suggested reading: Beth Hughes' Edutopia article [“Real-World Tasks in the ELA Classroom: GoodReads”](#)

Follow these steps:

- Go to [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com). At the top right of the page, you will see an area to sign in or to make a new account.
- Make a new account: use your KCS email address, your first name, and your last initial only (Your name is public, so do not use your full last name for privacy).
- The website will ask you to link your account to Facebook, Twitter, etc. You may click “Skip this step.”
- The website will ask you to identify a reading goal for 2019. How many books would you like to read for pleasure before 2020 if you didn't have to worry about conflicting assignment. Type and submit that number.
- On the next page, GoodReads lists a variety of genres. Choose at least 4-5 genres that you are interested in so that GoodReads can recommend books to you.
- As a final step to the registration process, the website will ask you to rate books you've already read 1-5 stars. Doing this allows GoodReads to recommend books to you based on books you already like.
- When you see some books you want to read, click “Want to Read” underneath the book and the website will add the book to a list so that you can keep up with the books you'd like to read next.
- After you've finished rating books, click “see your recommendations.”
- Congratulations, you have signed up for GoodReads.
- Check your KCS email and look for an email from GoodReads asking you to verify your email address. You must verify your email address before you can complete the last step for this assignment.

## Four Choice Books

This summer, you will need to choose four books to read for pleasure. Please keep your progress updated on your GoodReads account. I will provide you with opportunities to connect with other students through the private GoodReads group over the course of the summer. If you're unsure of where to start, GoodReads is an amazing tool for finding new books to read based on the books you've enjoyed in the past. By keeping your GoodReads account updated, your classmates can see what you are reading and which books you enjoyed, which may convince them to read it as well. By reading four books of choice this summer, you will not only prepare yourself the volume of reading in English 2 in the coming year, but you will also prepare yourself for the book talk presentations you will give throughout the year. Feel free to peruse a detailed description of [Book Talks](#) assignment at the link provided.

Here are some thoughts from students' book talks this past school year that might help you choose books for your summer reading:

"I read *Legend* by Marie Lu for one of my book talks. This book is about a dystopian future where the United States is flooded and many states are under water now, and the United States is split into two factions, the Republic, and the Colonies. The book is about two kids, Day, who is the hero of slums, and the most wanted in the Republic for causing trouble, and June, who is the Republic's prodigy who is in college and an agent in the military. The book is a great read and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in reading books with action and some romance." -Jayden Roop

"I read *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson for my book talk. I think the book is good for people interested in history, and likes to read about how historical figures and events tie together and overlap. I don't even like history and I loved this book. I also think this book is good for people who are interested in books about serial killers. It is a fairly challenging read as well, which I appreciated." -Josie Bresler

"I read Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*; it is a coming of age novel set in the 80's where the main character, Charlie, writes letters to the reader about everything that he is going through in life, such as adventures that he goes on with his newfound friends and other more controversial topics like mental illness, sexual assault, suicide, abusive relationships, having a closeted same-sex relationship, and drugs and alcohol. I chose this book because it is a coming of age novel that people can relate to today. It is important that everyone have a coming of age novel that they can connect with on an emotional level, and for me, and quite possibly others my age, this novel is it." -Maeve Houston

"*The Watchmen*, written by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, is probably the most intricate and complex comic in the history of DC comics, and possibly comics entirely. The story takes place out of continuity from everything else from DC comics. So, if you ever wanted to start reading it, you simply could just get issue # 1 and go from there. The story has even been converted to graphic novel format, so it can be read as a book. The world that this story takes place is supposed to be very similar, if not exact to the real world at the time the story was written. If you like mystery, somewhat dark themes, and a more mature story, then I definitely recommend that you read this story. Trust me, you will not be disappointed." -Miles Carter

"For my book talk, I read *Clockwork Angel* by Cassandra Clare. It is a young adult novel based in the 1800's surrounding the lives of demon-hunting "Shadowhunters." It revolves around the heroine of the novel, Tessa Gray, trying to find her way in a world that is completely new to her. I think that this book would be a really good fit for you if you are a fan of other Young Adult fiction such as *The Hunger Games*, *The Selection*, *The Maze Runner*, *Divergent*, *The Mortal Instruments*, or *Harry Potter*. It is 448 pages long and I would say it has a medium difficulty reading level. It is also the first book of a trilogy, so if you enjoy the first one, the other two books that follow are just as captivating and intense." -Ashley Waycaster

## Whole Class Novels for 2019-2020

And finally... for those of you who love to plan ahead, we will cover the following four texts as whole class novels in English 2 this coming year. I have limited copies of the following books to lend out to students, so I suggest you purchase your own. We will be using paper copies only in class. All four of these books can be found at McKay Used Books or sold used on Amazon Marketplace. Feel free to read ahead, but the following books will not count towards your four choice summer reads:

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Persepolis: Part 1* by Marjane Satrapi (This is a graphic novel that you can find published either as Part 1 only, or as *The Complete Persepolis*. Either version of the graphic novel is acceptable for our class, but we will only read Part 1.)

I am excited to give you the opportunity to discuss these novels with your peers. In the meantime, have a great summer!