

Summer Reading Assignments – Elyria High School

English 9 Honors, 10 Honors, and 11 Honors

- Annotations made on electronic devices will not be accepted
 - If using Post-It Notes, please do not fold
- Listed are suggested ISBN numbers, please see individual teachers if there are questions about the version of the book

9 Honors: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* - Mitch Albom (ISBN: 9781401308582)

Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It is a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his meaningless life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: Why was I here?

10 Honors: *The Alchemist* - Paulo Coelho (ISBN: 9780062315007)

The Alchemist is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist. The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us, as only a few stories have done, about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, above all, following our dreams.

11 Honors: *Little Fires Everywhere* - Celeste Ng (ISBN: 9780735224315)

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

Additional books will need to be purchased throughout the year. Individual teachers will provide students with book titles and give them ample time to order/purchase.

WHAT IS ANNOTATING?

- It is the significant and meaningful interaction with the text.
- It is a tool you can use to improve reading comprehension and remember the assigned text.
- It allows you to get the most out of a reading assignment and pay attention to details.
- It provides a foundation of information to use for further analysis and discussion.

Directions:

1. As you read, record significant reflections, thoughts or questions next to the specific passages you wish to comment about. Annotations are expected throughout the entire book.
2. You will want to pay close attention to key scenes, themes, symbolism, characters and language as you read and annotate. Please see the list of items to focus on.
3. **You may underline and/or highlight; however, this will not be sufficient enough to prepare you for class discussion and you will not be given points for this.**
4. If you can't fit all your comments/observations within the pages of the novel, you may write them on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure you reference every annotation to a specific page. You may also choose to use sticky notes. Please keep in mind that if you do an alternative note taking system you are still responsible for bringing a copy of the novel to class the entire time the text is being studied.
5. Please focus on the quality of the annotations, and not just the amount or quantity.
6. Annotations taken directly or paraphrased from outside sources (internet, books, etc.) will not be accepted. Annotations must be original and authentic.

Items you will want to mark while you read:

- Literary elements (symbolism, theme, foreshadow, characterization, character types, etc.)
- Figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.)
- Plot elements (setting, mood, conflict, etc.) Please no summaries.
- Diction (effective or unusual word choice)
- Syntax (placement of words, patterns, punctuation and mechanics, etc.)
- Images (striking imagery that helps create meaning)
- Essential questions with answers or solutions
- Connection of ideas and concepts
- Point of view and narration

GENERAL RUBRIC

Criteria	Excellent	Good/Adequate	Needs Improvement	Lacks Honors Quality
Number of Annotations	Annotations cover entire novel and are well dispersed. Excels.	Annotations are frequent but not as thorough (passive). Substantial.	Annotations are fairly sparse/sections of the novel are not annotated. Inadequate.	Text is only annotated in certain areas or parts. Minimum.
Width: Variety of topics/ marked for discussion	Annotations discuss all required literary elements. Questions extend topics/answered. Above expectations.	Annotations cover requirements and discussion of all literary elements is complete. Minimal questions. Meets expectations.	Annotations are too narrowly focused on one or two main topics. Lacks effective questions for discussion. Below expectations.	Annotations miss categories altogether and discuss fewer than the required elements. No questions are present. Does not show understanding of work.
Depth: Significance of commentary	Not only are there notes but also comments that show depth of understanding and discussion of purpose and effect. Excellent.	The notes have an occasional insight on the overall purpose and effect of the elements. The reader seems to show a deeper understanding of reading. Well done.	The notes include mostly identification of elements with only a few insightful comments of the significance of the reading. Below level.	Notes seem to only identify elements, and at that some of the notes seem purposeless. There is no commentary from the reader on purpose or effect. Poor.
Big Picture: author's tone and shifts tagged for discussion, themes are identified.	Annotations identify the main ideas and provide readers' insight on the themes. Exceptional.	Annotations seem to understand the big picture but perhaps not clearly or with varied focus. Good.	Annotations seem shallow, only seeing details with the whole. Too narrow a focus.	Annotations miss big picture overall, details, identified but not analyzed as a whole. Limited.

Sample Annotation

The Journey

By Mary Oliver

After reading, could be titled "Your Journey"

Repetition of "you" throughout. Is it an authoritative "you" or more personal and intimate?

One day you finally knew what you had to do, and began, though the voices around you kept shouting their bad advice— though the whole house began to tremble and you felt the old tug at your ankles. "Mend my life!" each voice cried. But you didn't stop.

What could "old tugs" be? - guilt, memories, past

personification: holding us back

You knew what you had to do, though the wind pried with its stiff fingers at the very foundations, though their melancholy was terrible. It was already late enough, and a wild night, and the road full of fallen branches and stones.

Purpose: Listen to your inner voice.

Could represent or symbolize life's demands.

But little by little, as you left their voices behind, the stars began to burn through the sheets of clouds, and there was a new voice which you slowly recognized as your own, that kept you company as you strode deeper and deeper into the world,

determined to do the only thing you could do— determined to save the only life you could save.

Indicates a stop or pause. Important statement to follow

Tone: strident, confident and determined

father did not want to hear of it.

"You can go if you want to," he said to me and to my older sisters. "I shall stay here with your mother and the child. . . ."

Naturally, we refused to be separated. → foreshadow?

Name of book. Not a sentence.

Night. No one prayed, so that the night would pass quickly. The stars were only sparks of the fire which devoured us. Should that fire die out one day, there would be nothing left in the sky but dead stars, dead eyes.

Night is negative Like a monster.

There was nothing else to do but to get into bed, into the beds of the absent ones; to rest, to gather one's strength.

voc: sad, gloomy

At dawn, there was nothing left of this melancholy. We felt as though we were on holiday. People were saying:

"Who knows? Perhaps we are being deported for our own good. The front isn't very far off; we shall soon be able to hear the guns. And then the civilian population would be evacuated anyway. . . ."

"Perhaps they were afraid we might help the guerrillas. . . ."

"If you ask me, the whole business of deportation is just a farce. Oh yes, don't laugh. The Boches just want to steal our jewelry. They know we've buried everything, and that they'll have to hunt for it: it's easier when the owners are on holiday. . . ."

On holiday!

These optimistic speeches, which no one believed, helped to pass the time. The few days we lived here went by pleasantly enough, in peace. People were better disposed toward one another. There were no longer any questions of wealth, of social distinction, and importance, only people all condemned to the same fate—still unknown.

Saturday, the day of rest, was chosen for our expulsion.

word choice! -forced.

The night before, we had the traditional Friday evening meal. We said the customary grace for the bread and wine and swallowed our food without a word. We were, we felt, gathered for the last time round the family table. I spent the night turning over thoughts and memories in my mind, unable to find sleep.

Something they did wrong?

At dawn, we were in the street, ready to leave. This time there were no Hungarian police. An agreement had been made with the Jewish Council that they should organize it all themselves.

Our convoy went toward the main synagogue. The town seemed deserted. Yet our friends of yesterday were probably waiting behind their shutters for the moment when they could pillage our houses.

vocab: loot steal

The synagogue was like a huge station: luggage and tears. The altar was broken, the hangings torn down, the walls bare. There were so many of us

→ simile: it is not for vacation travel... irony.

Why the space between?

Gives good perspective of attitude (outside of Elie's voice)

Dawn = Repeated
Night = Start sentence

* From Night by Elie Wiesel

CHAPTER I

no chapter titles... good?/bad?

older, looking back

Was he hurt or harmed? maybe just innocent or naive?

IN MY YOUNGER and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.

POV - 1st person

"Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." - privileged narrator?

He didn't say any more, but we've always been unusually communicative in a reserved way, and I understood that he meant a great deal more than that. In consequence, I'm inclined to reserve all judgments, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores. The abnormal mind is quick to detect and attach itself to this quality when it appears in a normal person, and so it came about that in college I was unjustly accused of being a politician, because I was privy to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men. Most of the confidences were unsought - frequently I have feigned sleep, preoccupation, or a hostile levity when I realized by some unmistakable sign that an intimate revelation was quivering on the horizon; for the

doesn't judge!

Educated narrator.

DICTION... creates suspense

I
enticing... secret griefs, what are they? who are the wild, unknown men?

Vague in narrator
- who?
- name?
- gender?

He isn't looking for it.