English 9 Honors

Summer Assignment-Book Club

For your summer assignment, you will chose a book from the list below, read it, and complete a Double Entry Journal. You will then use this journal to complete an essay within the first few weeks of school.

Our first unit focuses on the concept of “empathy” in the context of High School. They delve into important, poignant themes/topics that help to illustrate the importance of communication and action in the hope of change.

Book Choices:

1. **The Outsiders-**According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.
2. **Before I Fall-** For popular high school senior Samantha Kingston, February 12—"Cupid Day"—should be one big party, a day of valentines and roses and the privileges that come with being at the top of the social pyramid. And it is…until she dies in a terrible accident that night. However, she still wakes up the next morning. In fact, Sam lives the last day of her life seven times, until she realizes that by making even the slightest changes, she may hold more power than she ever imagined.
3. **Symptoms of Being Human-**Riley Cavanaugh is many things: Punk rock. Snarky. Rebellious. And gender fluid. Some days Riley identifies as a boy, and others as a girl. The thing is…Riley isn’t exactly out yet. Between starting a new school and having a congressman father running for reelection, the pressure—media and otherwise—is building up in Riley’s so-called “normal” life. On the advice of a therapist, Riley starts an anonymous blog to vent those pent-up feelings and tell the truth of what it’s *really* like to be a gender fluid teenager. Just as Riley’s starting to settle in at school, the blog goes viral, and an unnamed commenter discovers Riley’s real identity, threatening exposure. Riley must make a choice: walk away from what the blog has created—a lifeline, new friends, a cause to believe in—or stand up, come out, and risk everything.
4. **Burn Journals-**In 1991, fourteen-year-old Brent Runyon came home from school, doused his bathrobe in gasoline, put it on, and lit a match. He suffered third-degree burns over 85% of his body and spent the next year recovering in hospitals and rehab facilities. During that year of physical recovery, Runyon began to question what he’d done, undertaking the complicated journey from near-death back to high school, and from suicide back to the emotional mainstream of life.
5. **Eleanor and Park-***Eleanor*... Red hair, wrong clothes. Standing behind him until he turns his head. Lying beside him until he wakes up. Making everyone else seem drabber and flatter and never good enough.

*Park*... He knows she'll love a song before he plays it for her. He laughs at her jokes before she ever gets to the punch line. There's a place on his chest, just below his throat, that makes her want to keep promises.

Set over the course of one school year, this is the story of two star-crossed sixteen-year-olds—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

1. **Ready Player One-**It’s the year 2044, and the real world is an ugly place. Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes his grim surroundings by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia that lets you be anything you want to be, a place where you can live and play and fall in love on any of ten thousand planets. And like most of humanity, Wade dreams of being the one to discover the ultimate lottery ticket that lies concealed within this virtual world. For somewhere inside this giant networked playground, OASIS creator James Halliday has hidden a series of fiendish puzzles that will yield massive fortune—and remarkable power—to whoever can unlock them.

For years, millions have struggled fruitlessly to attain this prize, knowing only that Halliday’s riddles are based in the pop culture he loved—that of the late twentieth century. Like many of his contemporaries, Wade is as comfortable debating the finer points of John Hughes’s oeuvre, playing Pac-Man, or reciting Devo lyrics as he is scrounging power to run his OASIS rig.

And then Wade stumbles upon the first puzzle.

**Assignment-Double Entry Journal:** A Double Entry Journal, as the name indicates, has two sides.

* The **left side** must contain ten quotations from the reading with page numbers noted. Should you wish to refer to a particularly long selection (a paragraph), you may paraphrase it. Remember that a quotation is not necessarily dialogue.
* The **right side** must comment on five of these ten quotations. Your comments can respond to questions such as:
* What strikes you about this?
* What was your first thought when you read this? Does your opinion change? How? Why?
* What does this passage/idea make you think of or remember?
* How does this quote relate to a subject/topic of the book?
* Does something confuse you or lead to further questions?
* How do you feel about this?

Recreate the chart on the next page, so you can type out your responses. **Handwritten work is not accepted. This will be due the first day of school.**

**Double Entry Journal Sample**

Name

English 9H

Day Month Year

|  |
| --- |
| *Title of Chosen Text* |
| Page | Quotations | Commentary/Analysis |
|  | 1. *Put a quote here from the book along with the page number. Be sure that the quote is something significant to the story’s meaning or gives a unique insight.*  | 1. *Your thoughts as well as analysis as to what the quote means and why you chose it.*  |
|  | 2. | 2. |
|  | 3. | 3. |
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