

Dear Students and Parents,

Over the summer all incoming Redwood freshmen students are required to read one book. Students must choose their book from the list at the bottom of this page.

When we return in the fall, we will introduce freshmen to Redwood's online forums where they will post responses to the books and reply to their classmates' posts. There is no summer work other than reading the book, but if students want to get a hard start on their posts, they can respond to **one** of the questions below and save that response (either a hard copy or a digital copy) for when school begins.

Forum Discussion Questions (respond to one, or wait to respond to one when you return to school. If you finish your book early in the summer, you may want to complete your response then, while the book is still fresh in your mind. Responses should be about a page long.)

1. Would your book have been a good fit for your last year's English class? Why or why not? Does it relate thematically to what you discussed last year? Are there connections you can make between your summer reading book and other books you read last year?
2. What did the author of your book do to make the characters in your book compelling? How did the author make you love or hate the characters? If the characters weren't compelling, why? What did the author do poorly?
3. How has your thinking or way of looking at the world changed as a result of reading your book? Did your book teach you anything?
4. What was interesting about your author's style? Take a look at word choice, at tone, at similes and metaphors, at sentence structures, etc. Did the author's style seem to fit his or her purpose? What were some of your favorite passages from a style perspective (as opposed to a theme perspective or character perspective)?
5. What was confusing to you about the book? What questions would you want to ask the author and what might be some possible answers he or she would give you? Speculate.

Next Year's Freshmen Choices

The Perks of Being a Wallflower—Stephen Chbosky

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay – Michael Chabon (One Book One Marin selection)

Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams

The Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls

If you have any questions about this assignment, please email RHS English Department Chair Steve Hettleman at shettleman@redwood.org

SOPHOMORE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

This summer, please read one of the following:

- *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, by Junot Diaz (m)
- *Water for Elephants*, by Sarah Gruen (m)
- *The What is the What*, by Dave Eggers
- *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell

Note: Books with an (m) following them denote mature material of a violent or sexual nature.

When you finish reading, log on to the SOPHOMORE SUMMER READING FORUM by going to:

learn.tamdistrict.org

Log on using your Redwood High School username and password

Scroll down to Redwood High School Summer Reading and click on the link to the

2010-2011 Sophomores

Click on the forum for the book you read. Then, please complete the following two exercises:

Exercise 1. Click on ADD A NEW DISCUSSION TOPIC.

In your post, respond to this prompt:

Consider the influences on *one* of the main characters in your book of one of the following:

Setting (where things happen)
Personal/Family Relationships, or
Cultural Background

Discuss how this affects and changes the character throughout the book and point to at least one specific scene/passage to make your case. **Write 2-3 good paragraphs in your original post, about ½ to 1 full page.**

After you post, print a copy of your posting and save it. You will need to bring it to your Sophomore English class in the Fall.

Exercise 2. After you have posted, read a few other responses posted by other sophomores who have read the same book.

Respond to AT LEAST two of those postings in 2-3 interesting paragraphs. You

must respond to one posting that has had zero responses (you must be a first responder!), and then you may choose to respond to any other posting that interests you.

After you respond, print a copy of all your responses and save them. You will need to bring them to your Sophomore English class in the Fall.

If you have trouble logging on, please see the instructions on the Redwood homepage (www.redwood.org).

If you continue to have trouble logging on, or if you are confused by the assignment, please email Mr. Hettleman at shettleman@redwood.org

Special Note to Transfer Students who don't have usernames or passwords:

Complete Exercise I that's described above and save it to your personal computer. Print out a hard copy of your response and bring it to your English class in the fall. Your English teacher will get you a username and password and show you how to post your response to the forum.

JUNIOR SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

This summer, please read [one of the following books](#):

- [Cats Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut](#)

- [Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama](#)

- [Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell](#)

- [The Turnaround by George Pelecanos](#)

- [The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon](#)

When you finish reading, log on to the JUNIOR SUMMER READING FORUM by going to:

learn.tamdistrict.org

Log on using your Redwood High School username and password.

Under Redwood Summer Reading, click on the link for 2010-2011 Juniors.

Please complete the following two exercises:

Exercise 1. Click the forum for your specific book. Click on ADD A NEW DISCUSSION TOPIC.

In your post, respond to one of the following questions:

[A. How has your thinking or way of looking at the world changed as a result of reading your book? Did your book teach you anything?](#)

[B. Evaluate your author's style. Take a look at word choice, at tone, at similes and metaphors, at sentence structures, etc. Did the author's style seem to fit his or her purpose? What were some of your favorite passages from a style perspective \(as opposed to a theme perspective or character perspective\)?](#)

[C. Choose a passage from the book that stood out to you. Explain its appeal as well as its connection to the book as a whole.](#)

Your post should be 2-3 good paragraphs, about ½ to 1 full page. After you post, print a copy of your posting and save it. You will need to bring it to your junior English class in the Fall.

Exercise 2. Read a few other responses posted by your classmates. Respond to AT LEAST two of those postings in 1-3 good paragraphs.

After you respond, print a copy of your responses and save them. You will need to bring them to your junior English class in the Fall.

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Senior Summer Reading Books (2010)

Select one of the four possibilities below to read over the summer before school starts. Make sure to bring it with you to English class on the first day of school on August 18, 2010. We will start the school year by working in groups on a couple of assignments related to the books.

Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood*

Michael Chabon's *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*.

Sam Lipsyte's *The Ask*

J. D. Salinger's *Nine Stories*

Senior Summer Reading Book Assignment

When you are finished reading, log on to the SENIOR SUMMER READING FORUM by going to:

learn.tamdistrict.org

Log on using your Redwood High School username and password. Scroll down to Redwood Summer Reading and click on the link to the 2010-2011 Seniors. Click the link to the appropriate forum for your book and complete the following two exercises:

Exercise I: Click on ADD A NEW DISCUSSION TOPIC. In your post, respond to one of the following questions below. Make sure to specifically refer to passages within your book and/or quote from your book to support your ideas and opinions in your written response. Make sure to print out a copy of your posting and save it. You must bring it to your English class with the book on the first day of school. Your response should be somewhere between 1/2-1 full page in length (about 2-3 good paragraphs). The individual questions for each topic are meant to spur your thinking; you don't have to answer all of the questions individually. Question E is specific to *Nine Stories*.

Topic A. SETTING In every literary work, the setting (time, place, and atmosphere) plays a big role. Comment on how setting shapes one of the following: plot (especially the conflict), characters (who they are and how they relate to each other), or theme(s).

Topic B. CHARACTER Authors often create characters that are foils (opposites) to each other in order to bring out important issues or themes. These characters can be best friends or enemies. Focus on two such characters in your book and write about who they are, how they relate to each other, and how they help to further the book's insights into life (the themes) due to their interactions. How much of the narrative depends on the relationship that these foils have?

Topic C. THEME In your opinion, what's the big issue? What's your book trying to prove? So what? These questions get to the heart of THEME, that big word that is often discussed in English class. Identify one theme and thoroughly explain how it is developed throughout the narrative and why it may matter to you or somebody else.

Topic D. CONNECTIONS How does your book compare to another book you've read and why? What are the similarities and differences? How do they relate in various literary ways: settings, characters, conflicts, plot developments, style & use of language by authors, effects upon the readers, and the themes? Do these connections help you to understand the two books better? If so, why? If not, why? After reading your book, would you read other books by the same author? Why? Why not?

Topic E. SPECIFIC TO NINE STORIES After reading all nine short stories by J. D. Salinger, select two of them to compare and contrast. What are the similarities and differences? How do the characters develop from story to story? How do the issues and themes develop from story to story? Is the order of the stories important? What do you learn from these stories?

Exercise II: Read two of your classmates' posts and respond to them. Please do not respond to any post that already has two responses.

After you make your post and your responses, print out a copy of each and save it for your English class in the fall where you will receive credit for your work.

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AP Language and Composition
Summer Work
Blaber, Hettleman

Please complete the following assignments over the summer.

- 1) **READING:** Please read Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.
 - a) You may purchase the text at a local bookstore or online, or borrow it from your local library.
 - b) If buying the text, we recommend the Signet Classic edition. If we all have the same edition, it will make discussion and references easier in the fall. If you can't find the recommended edition, any edition will do.
 - c) You **DO NOT** need to read the Introductory Sketch, "The Custom House."
 - d) If you cannot purchase a copy of the text, see one of us in the next two weeks and we will give one to you.

- 2) **ANNOTATION:** While you are reading, please annotate your text. You may do this by writing directly on the pages of the book (if you own it), or by using Post-its (if you borrowed it).
 - a) When we annotate we mark up text that is interesting to us. The text may be interesting because of word choice, because of sentence structure, because of thematic connections, because of connections to our personal lives, or because of any number of other reasons. Annotate based on what is interesting to you, not based on what you think your teachers want you to say. Also, asking questions is a form of annotating.
 - b) While highlighting may be a way to annotate, notes in the margins explaining why you highlighted are important. Often, if you return to a highlighted text that does not contain these marginalia, you will forget why you highlighted it in the first place.
 - c) You will turn in your annotated copy of the text on the first day of class and receive a grade for your annotations.

- 3) **WRITING (ONLINE DISCUSSION):** As soon as you are finished reading, log on to the AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION SUMMER READING FORUM by going to:

<http://learn.tamdistrict.org>

Log on using the username and password you use to log in to your Redwood High School student account. Click on the link to the AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION SUMMER READING FORUM. Click the link to the appropriate discussion forum (there are 3 of them) and complete the following two exercises:

- a) **POST 3 CQCs:** Please complete three (3) quote responses for the book: one for each section of the novel (beginning—chapters 1-8, middle—chapters 9-15, and end—chapters 16-24). Each quote response should be an individual discussion post to the appropriate forum. Type each response first in a word processing application, such as Microsoft Word, and then post each response separately as an individual response to the forum by clicking on the Add a new discussion topic

- link in the forum. You may know quote responses as CQC's or Dialectical Journals. They all mean the same thing.
- i) You should choose a quote from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
 - ii) For each quote, provide the context, the actual quote, the page number, and your response.
 - iii) The responses themselves should each be roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page. In your response you may analyze, interpret, react, reflect, or any combination of these skills. Choose passages that are interesting or meaningful to you for some reason.
 - iv) Do NOT use passages that are referenced in Sparknotes. You will not receive credit for passages that Sparknotes analyzes.
 - v) Your packet of responses is limited to three typed pages. We won't read anything beyond three pages. This gives you some wiggle room should one of your responses go a little longer than one page.
 - vi) Your quote responses are due on the first day of class, absolutely no exceptions. This is a graded assignment.
- b) **RESPOND TO 2 CQCs:** Read two of your classmates' posts and respond to them. Please do not respond to any post that already has two responses.

After you make your post and your responses, print out a copy of each and save it for your English class in the fall where you will receive credit for your work.

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Enjoy your summer! We look forward to a rewarding, enriching year in AP Language and Composition next year. Let's hit the ground running.