

Honors English 9 – Summer Reading

Required Readings:

1. *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman

Maus I is a true story that depicts Art Spiegelman, a young man at the time, interviewing his father about his experiences as a Jew living in Poland and surviving the Holocaust. First published in 1980, *Maus I* became the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1992 and continues to be widely read and taught in classrooms today.

(Note: Students will read *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began* (Art Spiegelman) at the beginning of the academic school year. Please buy a copy as soon as convenient over the summer.)

2. *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Caitlin Alifirenka, Martin Ganda, and Liz Welch

I Will Always Write Back is a *New York Times* bestselling memoir that highlights the friendship between a girl from America and a boy from Zimbabwe. Kaitlin and Martin came into each other's lives because of a simple school assignment in 1997 and continue to be friends to this day.

Summer Reading Assignment:

While reading, compose at least five reading journal entries *per novel* chronicling your response to *Maus I* and *I Will Always Write Back*. A reading journal helps to keep track of what you read and your honest reactions to the text. Writing down your responses will help you to pause and reflect, ask questions, and possibly make connections from the text to your own life. Each journal entry should clearly state which novel, chapter, and page number(s) you are discussing. Each entry must be at least 150 words to receive full credit.

Possible journal lead-ins:

- This (character, event) reminds me of... because...
- When I read (chapter) I felt... because...
- What I found most interesting about (character, event, chapter) was... because...
- I predict... because...
- The part that confused me the most was...
- This chapter makes me want to...
- This (character, event, chapter) makes me think about _____ because...
- If I were (character) at this point, I would...
- I learned...

Submission Requirements:

All summer reading assignments must be typed. The printed copy of your assignment is due on the first day of school. Students will additionally be required to turn in a digital copy of their assignment through Canvas, so please save your work! Instructions on how and when to submit your assignment digitally to Canvas will come after school starts.

Have a great summer and I can't wait to meet you!