

Honors English 10 Summer Reading 2020

Dear Student:

Welcome to Honors English 10. I am looking forward to discussing summer reading and hearing your insights.

By now you have chosen two of the four assigned works for this summer. You've been offered choices so that you can choose works adapted to your own tastes. Each work has formidable literary elements to discover.

First, you are asked to actively read. You are asked not to just listen to an audio recording. I love listening to books on tape on long car rides; however, I realize that I am not benefitting as much as a writer. I cannot see how the author is crafting his syntax (sentences) and diction (words). Writers such as Michael Shaara who has won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Killer Angels* and Willa Cather who is known for her moving descriptions of the American West have styles to study, to learn from. And closely analyzing the many visual layers of *American Born Chinese* can reveal symbols, allusions, characterization, and themes.

Second, as a high school student you should be able to follow plot and characterization. *Still, it might be a good idea to take some notes as you read.* Such notes are not expected but may help you review for the tests. Jot down questions that you have, too.

Finally, I ask you to complete a few enrichment and higher-level thinking skills exercises. These are not meant to burden you, but to expand your reading experience. Please word process your answers in 12 font, Times New Roman, MLA format. **This printed assignment is due the first day of class for sophomores. Assignments will be accepted the second day of class for half credit. No assignments will be accepted after the second day of class. No handwritten assignments will be accepted.** This assignment is 40% of your summer reading assessment, a Quarter 1 test grade.

Enrichment Activities:

- I. **Vocabulary** - For each of the two works you've chosen, find ten words that you do not know. List the word, its page number in the book (if listed), and its definition. If using *American Born Chinese*, you may also use allusions (references) to things such as modern culture or history (10 from each work = 20 words or allusions total).
- II. **Point of View** – For one of the two works you've chosen, choose any scene and write a **first person narration** from the point of view of a **minor character** in that scene. The **narrative** should not change any of the events of the scene, just the perspective of it. This narrative should be at least **two full pages**, double spaced.
- III. **Tone** – For the other work, choose a song that reflects the writer's attitude in a certain scene. In a short paragraph, identify the scene and the song, and briefly explain how that song fits the feeling that the writer was creating in that moment.

I am looking forward to seeing you in August. Happy reading.

Mrs. Kathy Schall

Note to readers of *American Born Chinese*: Some may find the character of Chin-Kee embodies many negative stereotypes. The author, Gene Luen Yang, states the character is “not meant to be funny,” but to allow readers to more easily spot and address bias. Let's talk about that issue in August!