



PROVISO
MATHEMATICS AND
SCIENCE ACADEMY

"A CATALYST FOR GREATNESS"

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English I - Survey of Lit Summer 2016 Reading Assignment Due Date: August 22, 2016

Congrats – you're *almost* a freshman at PMSA! Here is the summer reading assignment for English I students:

- Over the course of the summer, all incoming freshmen will read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian reservation. Born with a variety of medical problems, he is picked on by everyone but his best friend. Determined to receive a good education, Junior leaves the rez to attend an all-white school in the neighboring farm town where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Despite being condemned as a traitor to his people and enduring great tragedies, Junior attacks life with wit and humor and discovers a strength inside of himself that he never knew existed. We like this book because it is funny and touching as it chronicles the struggles of a teen-age boy caught between the white and Indian world. Plus the chapters are short and the novel is filled with hilarious cartoons and amusing sketches.

#1: Bring Book First Day of School = 10 points

- Purchase the book, which is available at many bookstores and libraries. It can also be ordered on Amazon or bn.com. Bring it to class on the first day of school. You will be awarded 10 points for having the book.
- Read the book and take notes, as directed, over the summer.

#2: Written Instructions: 30 Entries = 30 points

- The book has 29 chapters. For each chapter in the novel, please do the following: Choose a key line that captures the main idea, explain its significance, and write a question for discussion. Copy the line exactly and put it in quotation marks and include the page number.
- Please use the following format when logging your entries:

Chapter 1: The Black Eye of the Month Club

Entry #1a: Reference to the text: 1-2 lines (key line with pg. #)

b. Your notes that explain its significance: 2-3 lines

c. A question for discussion: 1 line

Continue to do this for each chapter of the novel, from "The Black Eye of the Month Club" to "Talking Turtles."

An example is provide below:

Example using chapter 1

Chapter 1: The Black Eye-of-the-Month Club

Key Line

"But weirdo me, I was born with too much grease inside my skull, and it got all thick and muddy and disgusting, and it only mucked up the works" (1).

(Notice that a key line does not have to have quotations marks already around it in the text. You add the quotations marks when you quote the line.)

Notes on the Significance

This line is significant in the first chapter because it shows a lot about the main character--that he's funny despite his misfortunes and that he's smart despite all the obstacles thrown at him. This is a young man who has been through a lot and who has a lot of resilience.

Question

What setbacks in your early life have you had to face and how did you overcome them?

- Your notes on the significance of a line should center on:
 - Thoughts regarding what is happening to the character(s) - their actions, their words, their emotions
 - Ideas regarding the *themes* of the book and what the author's message could be
 - The language – the tone, the meanings, the way the author writes
 - Cultural connections – thoughts on how the novel comments on society
- But there are 29 chapters and the assignment asks for 30 entries. What should I do? Pick one chapter and provide two entries from it. Voila!
- The journal assignment will be checked for a grade on the 1st day of school, August 22nd, and is valued at **30 points** toward your 1st quarter grade. No late assignments will be accepted for the reading journal.
- We will also be holding discussions regarding this book during the first week of school in August. If you haven't read your book and completed the written assignment, you will not be able to participate in the discussions.

GUIDELINES:

- This assignment must be typed! Hand-written work will not be accepted.
- The assignment is worth 40 points and is due on the FIRST DAY of class. If you submit it on Day 2, you will lose 10 points. Late work will not be accepted beyond Day 2.