



**2018 Summer Reading/Thinking Assignment
for Incoming 10th Grade Pre-AP English II Students for 2018-2019
This is for ALL Pre-AP English II students**

Why do we have a summer reading assignment?

The key to being a great reader is to read extensively, and the key to being a great writer is exposure to great writing. Reading is not something that we want you to do just during the school year; life-long learners are also life-long readers. Summer provides time to enjoy uninterrupted reading and allows students to digest ideas prior to discussing and interpreting writing techniques in class.

The Novel

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

OR

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

Yes, you have a choice. If you have already read one of the titles, however, please read the other. 😊 These books are available at most local bookstores including Half Price Books. If you foresee any difficulty in purchasing a copy of the book, please talk to your 9th grade teacher before the end of the year—we have a limited supply of copies that we can loan to students.

Why have my teachers selected these novels?

English II is based on world literature, so we've selected novels in which the protagonists explore multi-cultural identity and, quite literally, the world. In *Life of Pi*, it just so happens that the protagonist's mode of transportation is a lifeboat and his traveling companion is a tiger. *The Namesake* tackles a family's journey to America and the resulting culture clashes from being a first-generation immigrant. These novels introduce some of the big ideas of our course: truth and fiction, heroes, journeys, storytelling, culture, names, family, etc. Completing the summer reading assignment means you'll be ready to jump into the curriculum on Day 1!

The Assignment

Read and enjoy the book! That's it! When you return to school in August, you will have a quiz and several assignments on the book.

How can I prepare for the quiz and assignments?

We recommend that you take notes! Notes can help you to pay attention while you read and help you to remember what you read. They are also useful to study before the quiz. Take notes on...

- Key conflicts and major plot developments
- Important characters and their development
- Themes

Will the notes be a grade?

No.

Questions to Consider While Reading & Taking Notes

Major Plot Developments

- What happens? Why is it important?
- How do the plot developments relate to the key conflicts?
- How does one plot development foreshadow another?

Key Conflicts

- What are the important conflicts in this book?
- Between which characters do these conflicts occur?
- How are the conflicts resolved? If they aren't, why not?

Important Characters & Character Development

- What are some of the key physical and personality traits of this character? How would you describe him / her?
- How is the character related to other characters in the book?
- How does the character grow or change over the course of the book? Why? If s/he doesn't change at all, why not?
- How does this character contribute to the plot or theme development?

Themes

- What topics or ideas come up again and again throughout the book?
- How are those thematic ideas important? For example, how do they connect to the conflict, characters, or plot?
- When you reach the end of the book, consider what the author is communicating about this idea. What is the overall message? Write it as a complete sentence.

For example, the thematic idea of names is important in both books, so "names" is a thematic idea. But what is each author saying about names? What is the significance of a name? Considering these questions helps you create a **theme statement**.

Example from *Romeo & Juliet*

Thematic idea: **love**

Theme statement: Young **love** is impulsive and reckless, often leading teenage lovers to catastrophe.

Do you have any questions?

If you have any questions over the summer about this assignment, we want you to feel free to contact a 10th grade teacher for assistance.

Mrs. Webster: stacy.webster@austinisd.org

Mrs. Atkins: dana.atkins@austinisd.org

Mrs. Webster or Mrs. Atkins may not be your English teacher next year, but they can both help you with questions about the assignment.

A note about movies: We are aware that there is a movie about each book. Read the book. Trust us.