Welcome to Honors English I; we are glad you chose this class! Reading closely, writing well, and discussing thoughtfully are the hallmarks of upper-level literature classes, and this summer assignment is designed to get you ready for this adventure. As an Honors student, it is expected that you honor your commitment to the class and the assignment. Not being ready when school starts will put you at a significant disadvantage moving forward. You can find electronic copies of this assignment on the Ola High Summer Assignment page and on our teacher pages.

Please read both pages carefully before you get started.

THE ASSIGNMENT: Choose a book from the list below and complete the Passage Project.

THE READING LIST
Choose a book to read from the following list. To make a selection, read the back of the book or check the on-line summaries at Amazon.com to make sure that you pick the book you will most enjoy. NOTE: Some of the books may contain adult situations or language. We urge you to choose a book with a parent’s or guardian’s guidance. If a book makes you uncomfortable, abandon it and select another.

- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian - Sherman Alexie
- Speak - Laurie Halse Anderson
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou
- How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents - Julia Alvarez
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close - Jonathan Safran Foer
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night - Mark Haddon
- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind - William Kamkwamba
- The Secret Life of Bees - Sue Monk Kidd
- The Bean Trees - Barbara Kingsolver
- Station Eleven - Emily St. John Mandel
- The Age of Miracles - Karen Thompson Walker

The books can be purchased online, in bookstores, and may be carried in the public libraries. Books-A-Million on Jonesboro Road may have copies; call first to see. High quality used books can be found at various websites. One of our favorites is www.betterworldbooks.com.

THE PASSAGE PROJECT: Once you have chosen a novel from the choices above, complete the following:

While Reading: Do NOT read the book first and then do the assignment. Instead:
- First, gather a pack of post-its (sticky notes). Yes, you can use digital notes if you’re reading digitally.
- Then, as you read, every time you encounter a particularly important, provocative, dramatic, surprising, or even disturbing passage, mark it with a post-it note and continue with your reading. Feel free to make notes on the post-its.
- Note: A passage should be at least two sentences long. Longer is great.

After Reading:
- When you have finished the novel, look at all those passages you marked and decide which are the best.
- Keep the other post-its in the book for later, but select four passages from throughout the novel that are really meaningful.
- Then choose a fifth and most important passage that you consider the “Passage of the Book” according to the criteria listed below.
- Copy the passages precisely (including page numbers), and then write two paragraphs for each of the first four and one for the Passage of the Book.

Paragraph One for Each of the First Four Passages:

This should explain how the passage “fits” into the novel. Choose from the following questions to thoroughly and thoughtfully construct your explanation:

- How does the passage make the characters more interesting?
Paragraph Two for Each of the First Four Passages:

This should show you reacting to the passage as a reader. Your goal is to help a person who doesn't know you understand why you have selected this passage. To generate thorough, thoughtful responses, consider the following as suggested prompts or questions:

- Why does the passage impress, intrigue, horrify, or puzzle you?
- Why do you find the author’s use of language appealing or powerful?
- How does the passage jump off the page as a great descriptive passage?
- Why does it prompt a strong response from you as you read it?
- Why does it present itself as so well-crafted that you just love the sound of it?
- Explain why the language is beautiful, descriptive, graphic?
- Why is it particularly meaningful?
- Why is it a high point in the book?
- Why do you find yourself in agreement/disagreement with the ideas expressed?
- How does the passage remind you of a situation you have lived as well?
- Why does the passage make you laugh out loud or make you sad or make you something else?
- How does the author or the character raise intriguing questions or issues?
- How does the passage challenge or expand your thinking?

You are not limited to this list of suggested prompts or questions, nor do you have to answer all of the above, but your responses should clearly explain why these passages mean something to you or why they catch your attention.

The Final Paragraph: “The Passage of the Book”

Write this last paragraph to explain your choice for "The Passage of the Book." This should be that one passage that captures the essence, the true meaning, of the novel for you. It cannot be one of your previous passages. Explain exactly HOW this passage is the one perfect passage from the book. Give specific supporting details.

THE FINE PRINT

- This assignment should be complete when school starts. We will begin working with your books within the first few days. You will turn in the written work on Wednesday, August 2.
- Type all aspects of this assignment. Please be sure your name is on it; use 12 point font and double space. If you know how to do this MLA style, feel free to impress us.
- Passages that you choose must be at least two sentences long. Some of your passages should be longer than two sentences.
- Passages must be from throughout the entire novel (beginning, middle, end), not just one section.
- All passages must be in “quotation marks” and be exactly, word for word, as they appear in your novel.
- All passages must include the page number from which they are taken. Cite page numbers as the author’s last name and the page number inside of parentheses: (Smith 235) or (Jones 16). Note: there is no ”p.” or ”pg.”
- The paragraphs should directly follow the passage to which they refer.
- ENJOY THE BOOK!

ASSESSMENT

Your responses and post-it notes will be the jumping off point for in-class discussions and future writing assignments.

This assignment will serve as a pre-assessment of the following skills:

- Literary Analysis
- Thoughtful Written Reflection
- Language and Usage
- Following Directions