

Saint Dominic Academy – Honors English II Summer Reading 2024

Due: When we return to class in August

Format: MLA Format (times new roman size 12 font) Submitted via email or in Google Classroom when we return to school

Ask questions at: [Katherine.walls@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:Katherine.walls@portlanddiocese.org)

**REQUIRED READING: How to Read Literature Like a Professor** by Thomas C. Foster  
**Beal & Life of Pi** by Yann Martell

Honors English II: Choose ONE (1) of the following:

***A Long Way Down*** by Jason Reynolds:

A novel written in free verse about a young black boy, Will Holloman, struggling to make a choice after his brother is shot dead in the street. Will plans to seek revenge, but during his elevator trip he is greeted by a series of ghosts who confuse and complicate his perspective of his brother's death and the idea of revenge.

***Tuesdays with Morrie*** by Mitch Albom

This fantastic novel focuses on the author's Tuesday afternoons spent with his 78-year-old sociology Professor, Morrie Schwartz who is dying from ALS. Their conversations touch on the topics of life, death, forgiveness, love and the importance of community and connection.

***Things Fall Apart*** by Chinua Achebe

The novel chronicles the life of Okonkwo, the leader of an Igbo community, from the events leading up to his banishment from the community for accidentally killing a clansman, through the seven years of his exile, to his return, and depicts the effects of colonization in the Igbo society.

***Daniel Half Human: And the Good Nazi*** by David Chotejewitz

Two best friends dream of joining the Hitler Youth group in the 1930s Germany, but when one learns his mother is Jewish his connections to the Nazis have consequences.

***I am Malala*** by Malala Yousafzai

A memoir of a young activist's life in Pakistan who fights for girls' education under Taliban government and thus becomes a target of assassination.

***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen

Set in rural England of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the novel follows the middle-class Bennett family, who must marry off their five vivacious daughters. At the center is the headstrong second-daughter, Elizabeth Bennet, and her aristocratic suitor, Fitzwilliam Darcy, – both of whom whose pride must be humbled and prejudices dissolved.

**HONORS REQUIRMENTS:**

(Bring all the texts to the first weeks of class & be prepared to discuss and write about your reading).

**ASSINGMENT: Life of Pi** by Yann Martell.

1. Read Life of Pi by Yann Martel. Please procure, read, and annotate your own paper copy using sticky notes. This fictional book is written as if it were non-fiction; for that reason,

it's important to read the "Author's Note" which begins the book—it's part of the story itself, not "extra" material.

- a. Make sure you annotate thoroughly; just underlining or highlighting will not suffice--you need to take notes in the margins (on sticky-notes to save the book!), react to what you read, question what does not make sense, pick out literary elements, etc.
- b. The majority of your focus in your annotations will be theme related. Ensure you keep track of the big three themes of our story: Faith/Religion, Fear, Coming of Age and/or Nature.
- c. Your annotations will be checked for a grade on the first day of school.
  - i. Do not consult any supplements such as Sparknotes, Shmoop, or the like; I want your OWN perspectives and opinions in your annotations.
  - ii. Do not watch the film Life of Pi in lieu of reading the novel—they are significantly different!
  - iii. Be prepared for a reading check assessment on the second day of school.

**ASSIGNMENT: How to Read Literature Like a Professor** by Thomas C. Foster Beal

1. Annotate each chapter. This means to write out important definitions, terms, and major ideas for each chapter of the text to review when we return to school in the fall. You may consider using the CP questions as a guideline for main ideas.

**HONORS WRITING REQUIREMENT: Free Choice Reading**

Write a 2-3 page response that covers the following:

1. Using textual evidence, analyze the impact of the theme explored through literary devices such as: authors choice of words, setting, point of view, structure, development of the text and other elements and how they affect the text. Why do you think the author made these choices? How do they impact or influence the theme of the text.
2. Use three quotes from different places in the text and provide context for the quote before explaining what this quotes tells us about the theme and your chosen literary device.