

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Dear 9th Grade Students and Families, as you are making your registration decisions for the 2017-2018 school year, we would like to provide you with information about the 10th Grade Honors English Course. This intensive course is designed for the student who shows exceptional ability in reading and writing. Students who read three or more years above grade level will be given first priority. Students read a minimum of five books as whole class instruction, three of them core, in addition to their own choice of books each six weeks. They write six or more essays per year, create their own autobiography or other biographical work and practice various kinds of analytical essay styles (analytic, reflective, compare contrast).

According to the California state standards, students should be reading at least 2 million words annually by the time they reach 12th grade. Independent reading improves writing skills as well as vocabulary and can greatly enhance any educational experience. Summer reading is designed to prepare students for the challenges ahead. All students entering 10th Grade Honors English will be required to read one book from the list below. The book must be completed by the first day of school. Each student is responsible for completing five Dialectic Journals for his/her chosen book. The information on how to complete this assignment is listed on the following page.

The RHS 10th Grade Honors English Teachers Novel Choices

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

In addition to the summer reading assignment, there will be assignments and assessments based on these novels during the first weeks of school. Any student who has never taken an Honors English course, or who is unsure of whether the 10th Grade Honors English class is the right choice for him or her should speak with their current English teacher. To confirm your commitment to be part of the RHS Honors English program, you will need to complete the RHS Honors/AP registration contract. Please feel free to e-mail Mrs. Warsaw, English Department Chair, at kristinw@fsusd.org or Mrs. Krutz, English 10 Honors teacher, at Stephaniek@fsusd.org, with any questions. We look forward to working with you in the fall.

Mrs. Krutz, English 10 Honors Teacher

Independent Reading Guidelines

Here are the specifics about this assignment.

What is it?

A **Double-Entry Journal** is a two-column journal (*also called a dialectical journal*) and is a note-taking strategy for actively reading a text. You start with a student-selected passage in one column and your response in the second column.

Trigger Text <i>The Book Says...</i>	Analysis/Questions/ Opinions <i>I Say...</i>
<p>As you read, look for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Specific textual features or quotations that contribute to the narrator's voice and or a character's voice. · Narrator's use of humor. · Reactions to emotional events that happen in the novel. · Identify societal issues presented in the novels and try to infer the author's stance on the issue. · Predict how certain events will influence a character. 	<p>Then write the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Connections with your own experiences to those of the characters. · Your opinions about what is happening. · Trace the development of characters. · Comment on the writer's choices that create the voice of the narrator or other stylistic choices.

How long does it need to be?

-5 Pages Typed with 1-inch margins, single-spacing, and Times New Roman font, size 12

- Your analysis must take up at least **HALF** of the chart if not more

- You may have more than one quote per page but keep in mind that your analysis section should take up the entire half of the page on the right side.

It should look like this...

Trigger Text	Analysis/Questions/ Opinions
<p>"But my mother's hair, my mother's hair, like little rosettes, like little candy circles all curly and pretty because she pinned it in pin-curls all day, sweet to put your nose into when she is holding you, holding you and you feel safe, is the warm smell of bread before you bake it, is the smell when she makes room for you on her side of the bed." (Cisneros 6)</p>	<p>This long list of similes and metaphors describing her mother's hair must be important. She describes her father's hair in one sentence – as well as the hair of the other family members. The repetition of "holding you" is a clue as well. She obviously has a strong connection to her mother and it must be the most important relationship in her life – at least in her family. Other evidence of this closeness is the association of a smell – the smell of bread – with her mother. Olfactory memories are some of the strongest.</p>

Some sentence leads could include:

-Why did...

-Who is...

-This setting reminds me of...

-This character reminds me of...

-This doesn't make sense because...

-What would happen if...

-This event seems to be important because...

-The details show...