
Eleventh Honors—Summer Reading Assignment 2010

American Literature Honors

Over the summer, you will be responsible for reading the following:

- *The Jungle* –Upton Sinclair
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* –Mark Twain
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* – Sherman Alexie

Literary analysis is a major component of eleventh grade American Literature. Therefore, it is imperative that you spend quality time with these selections. Reading alone is not enough.

- In addition to reading, you must complete a Great Works Reader's Journal for each of the books. ****The Great Works Reader's Journal for advanced eleventh and twelfth grade classes is different than the one you completed for 9th and 10th honors.**
- To access the Readers Journal, visit www.chshub.com/english. This is the English department website. Look under Mandatory Summer Reading and select "Great Works Reader's Journal AP Language/11th Honors" (we will use the same form as the 11th AP students). **Please type or complete your Reader's journal in ink.**
- You will also complete a separate assignment for the Alexie novel.
- You will have an exam over *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* during the first week of school.

Please contact Ms. Clay at clayr@fultonschools.org if you have any questions.

11th American Literature Honors
Summer Reading Assignment for The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by
Sherman Alexie

After you have read Alexie's novel, read the following excerpt from Susan Berry Brill. Do you agree with her analysis of Alexie's work as it pertains to the novel? Respond to her assertions in a one-two page essay using 3-4 examples from the text to support your opinion. Your essay should be in MLA format.

Throughout Alexie's writing, he displays a critically discursive stance against virtually anyone and anything. This is an equal opportunity anger that perceives both the weaknesses and failures of both Indian and white worlds. . . . Alexie lives and writes on the interstices between the divergent stories of both worlds, what he refers to as "the in-between / between tipi and HUD house / between magic and loss" (43). . . .

And yet, the interstice is not only a place of pain and anguish, but also a place in which lives are born and lived with joy as well as pain. When human lives come together in the loves and joys of fancydancers, basketball player, and lovers, then the conversive magic of human interrelationships transforms the interstice into the here and now as meaningful as any. . . . The reservation dreams of fancydancers and basketball players are the same dreams of all human beings trapped within the discursive lies of oppositional relations, relative (in) significance, subjective power, and objective weakness. . . . The dreams of treaties that won't be broken, the dreams of loves that will mend the torn weavings of broken relationships and families, the dreams of the conversive power of myth, all these survive even beyond the pain of loss. . . .

from Susan Berry Brill de Ramirez, *Contemporary American Indian Literatures & the Oral Tradition*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1999. 190-93.