

# Honors English II Summer Assignments, 2017

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Hello, and welcome to Honors English II. We are so excited to be a part of your learning community next year, and as promised, here are the summer assignments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need clarification regarding the summer work. [mhittepole@wscloud.org](mailto:mhittepole@wscloud.org) and [skhorn@wscloud.org](mailto:skhorn@wscloud.org).

This year's summer reads are focused on the topic of poverty in America and the achievement of the American Dream. **Read and annotate three (3) books**, using color-coded highlighters and/or sticky notes. You will need to purchase your books because we will be using them to write a culminating paper due towards the end of the first nine weeks of class. You must choose at least one book from "Part I: Memoirs," and at least one book from "Part II: Non-Fiction Texts."

**You will be required to show your color coded annotations as your "entry ticket" into the Socratic Seminars, which will be scheduled within the first few weeks of school.** In each text, please mark passages that 1) address the conditions of poverty (what is poverty like?); 2) address the causes of poverty; 3) address the ramifications (consequences) of poverty. For example, you could use a pink highlighter to mark passages that show the conditions of poverty, a blue highlighter to mark passages that show its causes, etc.

**You will be required to write a 250-300 word reflection on each text, due the first day of school.** All reflections must constitute your own thinking and words. Be sure to quote and parenthetically document 3-or-more words in a row that are lifted from another source. Reflections should strive to answer some of the following guiding questions.

Guiding Questions:

1. What did you learn about the causes of/solutions to poverty?
2. What surprised you about what you read?
3. What passage(s) did you find memorable/meaningful?

## **Part I: Memoirs--Choose at least one.**

### ***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance, 2016.**

“From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America’s white working class. A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.”

### ***The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls, 2006.**

“What is so astonishing about Jeannette Walls is not just that she had the guts and tenacity and intelligence to get out, but that she describes her parents with such deep affection and generosity. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.” (Excerpted from Amazon)

### ***Black Boy (Part I: “Southern Night” only)*, by Richard Wright, 1945.**

“*Black Boy* is Richard Wright’s powerful account of his journey from innocence to experience in the Jim Crow South. It is at once an unashamed confession and a profound indictment—a poignant and disturbing record of social injustice and human suffering.” (Excerpted from Amazon)

## **Part II: Non-Fiction--Choose at least one**

### ***Fire in the Ashes: Twenty-Five Years Among the Poorest Children in America*, Johnathan Kozol, 2012.**

“In this powerful and culminating work about a group of inner-city children he has known for many years, Jonathan Kozol returns to the scene of his previous prize-winning books, and to the children he has vividly portrayed, to share with us their fascinating journeys and unexpected victories as they grow into adulthood.” (Excerpted from Amazon)

### ***Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp*, by Jerry Stanley, 1993.**

“This true story took place at the emergency farm-labor camp immortalized in Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*. Ostracized as ‘dumb Okies,’ the children of Dust Bowl migrant laborers went without school—until Superintendent Leo Hart and 50 Okie kids built their own school in a nearby field.” (Excerpted from Amazon)

### ***1776*, by David McCullough, 2005.**

“In this masterful book, David McCullough tells the intensely human story of those who marched with General George Washington in the year of the Declaration of Independence - when the whole American cause was riding on their success, without which all hope for independence would have been dashed and the noble ideals of the Declaration would have amounted to little more than words on paper.” (Excerpted from a review on “Good Reads”)