William Penn High School 10th Grade English

2015-2016 Summer Reading Assignment

**DUE: By the end of the first week of school.**

**Novel:** Read Sherman Alexie’s 2007 National Book Award for Young People's Literature winning novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school. The novel, based on the author's own experiences, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he thought he was destined to live. (from *Lexile.com)*. We chose this novel because of its interest for students and its connection to our 10th grade units of study. The novel does deal with some mature themes which apply to teenagers. After reviewing the text, please contact the English department at hturcu@colonial.k12.de.us if you would like to discuss the possibility of an alternative novel which would be comparable in theme and reading level.

**All 10th graders will complete the following 5 prompts. Write your responses as you read. Write with complete sentences and with well-organized paragraphs.**

1. After chapter 4 (page 32), retell Junior’s story so far from another character’s perspective. Create your own dialogue which could have occurred. (don’t copy and paste from the book) The character you are retelling the part of the story from must match the actual characterization in the book. (No changing personalities or events - just change the perspective)

2. After chapter 8, insert yourself into Reardan High School. Tell the story of the first day of school from your perspective. Be sure to include the new kid at Reardan - Junior. (You ARE NOT JUNIOR. You ARE YOU!)

3. After chapter 17, choose one of the social issues (discrimination, poverty, drugs, etc.) that is brought up in the novel and show how Junior has to deal with this issue. Include what you would do if you were dealing with that issue.

4. Find a small section within chapters 18- 22 (pages 130-159) which you think has meaning for your own life. Explain how that section relates to you and your life. Be sure to identify the section with page number and a brief summary which you have written yourself. Elaborate how the examples from the book connect specifically to you beyond just saying you both do something.

5. After reading the entire novel, decide what you think Junior has discovered about himself through the events shared in the novel. Support your decision with at least three quotations from various places in the text; include page numbers. Explain after each quotation how that example demonstrates what Junior discovers. If you are stuck, check out Shmoop’s possible identities for Junior. Just choose ONE. [www.shmoop.com/absolutely-true-diary-part-time-indian/arnold-spirit-junior.html](http://www.shmoop.com/absolutely-true-diary-part-time-indian/arnold-spirit-junior.html)

**10th grade Honors assignment is detailed on the back of this page.**

**If you even think you might be in Honors, you need to do its assignment.**

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| **10th grade Honors: All students enrolled in the honors program** must read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor 2nd edition* by Thomas C. Foster **and** the Sherman Alexie novel 1. Complete the 10th grade assignment for the Alexie novel. 2. Select one of the chapters in the Foster book and write a **TWO TYPED PAGES** length essay applying that chapter to the Alexie novel. (Be certain to read and understand the key points of the entire book though as you will be assessed on it early in the school year). This essay will be graded according to the CCSS text based writing scoring guide: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/aab/English_Language_Arts/ELA_docs_folder/Rubrics%20Informational/Gr9-10_InfoExp_2-13.pdf>Honors Assignment. You must buy the FOSTER book. You have to do the essay. |

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| **Grading criteria for prompt responses** | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Each response can earn up to 5 points for a total of 25 points for the summer reading assignment. 1.2.3.4.5. \_\_\_\_\_\_/25 | Response attempts to answer the prompt. Really, we think you read the reading guide and not the actual novel. Go back, before school starts and read the novel or you will fail the test we will give you.  | Response adequately addresses the prompt. Responses demonstrate some thought and connection with the novel.  | Response fully addresses and develops all aspects of the prompt. Responses reflect individual thought and are meaningful. Responses reflect a meaningful and accurate interaction with the novel.  |