

ENGLISH 9
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2017

We've chosen two excellent book choices for you to read over the summer. These choices include one fiction option and one nonfiction option. Both books showcase characters who face adversity while learning about themselves and others. Read at least one, or even both, of these books. Enjoy them. Then, complete Part I of the assignment. This work will be due on the first day that classes meet. Part II will be completed in class when you enter the ninth grade. You may take notes and come up with ideas in advance to help you get off to a great start.

BOOK OPTIONS:

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson is about a teen boy named Cole Matthews whose anger issues lead him into the hands of the criminal justice system. It involves the real world concept of Circle Justice (a Native American way to deal with people who break the law) whose goal is to heal rather than punish. Left alone on an island to reflect and seek change, Cole must endure physical and mental anguish in order to conquer the demons that cause him anger and pain. Will he survive? Will he earn forgiveness? Read to learn how his story ends.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot, now an HBO film starring Oprah Winfrey, is the true story of an African American woman who unknowingly changed the course of medical research. When cells were taken from her without permission during cancer treatment, Henrietta Lacks and her family had no idea what incredible impact they would have. The author uncovers the history of the Lacks family, details major scientific discoveries, and discusses the role of race and consent in medicine. If you love learning about the lives of real people, this challenging and engaging read will be absolutely worthwhile!

YOUR TASK: PART I

Using the guide that follows, identify four of the most important moments where there is conflict in the story for one or more of the main characters. Briefly present what is happening in that moment and explain the type of conflict it becomes. In your opinion, does the character or person involved deal with this conflict in a positive or negative way? Explain your answer.

CONFLICT: In our own lives, we deal with conflict on a daily basis. In fact, some people say that in order to be successful, the most important trait to develop is the ability to deal with conflict positively so that it is possible to bounce back from adversity and move forward. Conflict is what makes most stories exciting and worth reading. The most important conflict types include:

- ❖ **Person vs. Self** (Internal Conflict): This occurs when a person battles metaphorical demons in his or her head or struggles to make difficult decisions. It includes struggles with fear, desire and other choices that impact a person psychologically.
- ❖ **Person vs. Person** (External Conflict): This occurs when people argue or fight with other people.
- ❖ **Person vs. Nature** (External Conflict): This occurs when people struggle with natural obstacles like animals, the weather, or other environmental challenges.

This part of the assignment will be due when you report to class.

PART II (...to be completed in class in September)

Select a dramatic/significant moment from the book that you read. Then, pretend that you are the friend of the character or person involved in that moment. Write a letter (an introductory paragraph, a body of one or more paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph) to the character to give him or her advice that he or she could use to overcome his/her difficulties and make better decisions. In your letter, please do the following:

- ❖ Show the character that you write to that you clearly understand his/her situation.
- ❖ Present at least one honest and developed idea for the character to consider. Do your best to persuade him/her to take your advice. Be sure to explain why your advice will help. Develop examples when possible to show what you mean. You may develop more than one idea if you wish.

Your letter will be graded on how well you command the following:

- ❖ Understanding of the novel and the assignment
- ❖ Development of content to show knowledge and understanding of the novel
- ❖ Organization of details and ideas
- ❖ Language Use -- the style and sophistication of your writing
- ❖ Conventions of grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.