

# 9 Honors Reading Assignment

In addition to the one page assignment which **ALL** students complete, 9<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts Honors students must also read another book off the list below and complete the following Annotation Reading Assignment. Additional information can be found on the East High webpage.



Due the first day of LA class!

## Why annotate a book?

You **must** choose a novel from the list below. *It may not be the same book you used for the one page assignment.* These titles should be

Full ownership of a book only comes when you have made it a part of yourself. You take in the people, think about the events, and question the meaning. This happens in our minds as we actively read. You demonstrate this thinking by annotating the book. Why is marking a book indispensable to reading it?

available at your local library, for purchase online, or at most bookstores. Starred novels contain some mature content. Be sure to speak with your family about what book is the best choice for you.

## Book List

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| 1. <b>Wildfire*</b> by Karsten Knight              | 8. <b>Zahrah the Windseeker</b> by Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu |
| 2. <b>Summerland</b> by Michael Chabon             | 9. <b>Deathless</b> by Catherynne M Valente              |
| 3. <b>Scythe</b> by Neal Schusterman               | 10. <b>Bless Me, Ultima</b> by Rudolfo Anaya             |
| 4. <b>The Goddess Test*</b> by Aimee Carter        | 11. <b>Speak</b> *by Laurie Halse Anderson               |
| 5. <b>The Chaos of Stars</b> by Kiersten White     | 12. <b>The Book of 1000 Days</b> by Shannon Hale         |
| 6. <b>The Lost Sun</b> by Tessa Gratton            | 13. <b>Switch</b> by Karen Prince                        |
| 7. <b>The Girl From Everywhere</b> by Heidi Heilig | 14. <b>Ink</b> by Amanda Sun                             |

- First, it keeps you awake – not merely conscious, but wide awake.
- Second, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The person who says he knows what he thinks but cannot express it usually does not know what he thinks.
- Third, writing your reactions down helps you to remember.

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read the chapter, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time reinforces your understanding.

Remember, annotating, like thinking, is a discrete skill that requires practice to hone and master. With each chapter you read and annotate, you become a stronger reader. You will also get faster.

Approach the works with an open mind. Let them inspire you and stretch your imagination. If you have questions before school starts, feel free to email [cristi.hebert@slcschools.org](mailto:cristi.hebert@slcschools.org).

Bring your annotated texts to class the first day. Your East High LA Honors teachers look forward to seeing you in August!

## So, how I am supposed to annotate this book anyway?

Simply put, to annotate a book means that we identify important parts of it and make notes as we read. Often this is done on the pages of the book itself, by using sticky notes, or by taking focused notes in a notebook. For this assignment, you are required to follow the assignment instructions overleaf and complete your annotation notes in a **SPIRAL BOUND NOTEBOOK**. Turn this notebook in on the first day of class. Please make sure your notebook has your name on it! Spiral bound notebooks are available at many stores for a dollar or less. **If you need help obtaining a notebook, please email your East ELA teacher before the end of the school year.**



# Annotation Assignment Instructions

Divide your novel into 5 sections. For each section of your novel, you should answer THREE of the following nine topics in a spiral notebook. Be sure to answer all of the questions in the topic section. Each chapter and each novel will be different, so choose according to what makes sense in that section. Some chapters will have more plot development and some will have more character development. Beware to not rely on the same 3 topics for each over and again. You will lose points for depth of thought if you have not used all 9 topics at least once by the end of the novel.

## Annotation Topics

### 1) PLOT AND CONFLICT

**Describe the key events of the chapter. 3 or 4 sentences should be enough.** *Write the types of conflict that happen in this chapter and explain why they are that type. This should be about 2 - 3 sentences (man vs man, man vs self, man vs nature, man vs society, man vs supernatural, man vs technology)*

### 2) CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

How do the events, setting, or people in this chapter change the main character? Is this change for the better or worse for the main character? Why? 4-6 sentences.

### 3) SETTING

What changes occurred in the setting in this chapter? (only use this one when there is a setting change) Why did they change? What effect will this change have on the main character or the antagonist? 4-6 sentences.

### 4) THEME, SYMBOLS, AND MOTIFS

**Theme** is the main message or lesson that the reader should understand at the end of the novel. There are normally 2 or 3 key themes in a novel. Choose two for your novel to follow through out. **Symbols** are objects that stand for something else; usually something abstract that you cannot touch like love or freedom. Authors choose symbols to help explain their story and theme.

**A motif** is an object or idea that repeats throughout the novel. It is used to create a mood or tone such as every time it rains (rain is the motif) something bad happens to the main character. Motifs can also help to create the theme.

**Describe any examples of the theme, symbol, or motif in this chapter. Write the passage or quote, explain what theme, motif, or symbol it is, and why you think this is an example of that theme, symbol, or motif.**

### 5) LITERARY DEVICES AND MECHANICS

Literary devices and mechanics are HOW the author writes to create the characters' lives. These are what makes the reading interesting and exciting or boring and confusing. If you are not familiar with at least 4 types then use the website literarydevices.net to help.

For each chapter, find two DIFFERENT literary devices. Write the type of device: the passage or quote; why you think it was a good/bad example for this text.

Example: Metaphor: "her eyes are the ocean" (19); this is a good example because it describes the expanse and beauty of her eyes in a way that is easy to imagine.

### 6) VOCABULARY

Choose a minimum of 5 words from the chapter that are EITHER new or used in a new way. Write the word, if it is new or used in a new way for you, the definition, the quote from the novel. A note on definitions: be sure you understand the definition you choose. If you do not, go to another source until it makes sense.

Example: Omen (new word): a sign or clue of something to come. "The rain clouds were an omen for the bad day I had at school."



### 7) QUESTION and PREDICTION

An important part of critical thinking is being able to predict and question what you are reading. For this chapter, ask two questions. These can be for the author, a character in the story, the teacher, or something you want to look up later. Make one prediction (3-4 sentences) for what will happen in the next chapter and why you think it will happen.

### 8) COMMENT and CONNECT

Connections can be an image, an idea, an experience you've had or know of. You can connect something in the chapter to something you are learning in or out of school. You can connect to something bigger like a development in science, arts, math, or your city. Or, it can connect to a cultural issue you think is important. There are many ways to connect to a story. The key here is to explain why you think the item from the chapter is connected to something else. 4-6 sentences

Make a comment. Write a 2 or 3 sentence response to the chapter. It can be anything you want to say to the characters, author, or teacher. This should be different than a question. This is something you think or is your opinion.

### 9) PASSAGE REACTION

Find a passage or quote from this chapter that you had a reaction to. This could be something that made you laugh, or mad or sad. Maybe, you just think the author expressed the idea in a beautiful or clever way.

Write the quote or passage, the page number, and why you thought it was good/why you had a reaction to it.