



First Academy Leesburg

English II Honors

Summer Reading Assignment 2016-2017

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I am truly excited to be joining the First Academy family this year. I look forward to meeting each of you and furthering your knowledge through reading and writing. As we will learn in class, God has given us a beautiful gift through the use of language. It can be very powerful as it helps to define feelings, culminate experiences, and develop relationships with those around us. We will work to build a classroom community that is rich in discussion and uplifting to one another. May we use this time of learning to be glorifying to God. I will be available through email this summer and will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible. Have a wonderful summer and I will see you this fall! ☺

As you work on your summer reading, use fully expressed ideas to finish your assignment. Your ideas should not be expressed in sentence fragments. **Assignments are due the first day of class.** Extended time will be given to those registering late.

I. Assigned Books:

1. English II –

- *Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne (ISBN: 0-385-60940-X)
A fictional novel of a nine-year-old boy and his journey through childhood during World War II in Berlin, Germany. Bruno's naïve understanding of the world is tested as he begins to explore the fence outside his window. His discoveries will leave your breathless. Read your assigned book and complete a Reading Journal for your book.
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel (ISBN: 0374500010 or the first edition by Hill and Wang publishers)
An autobiographical memoir of Wiesel's Holocaust experience. The painful cries of humanity will not leave you untouched. You will need to read the preface and the Nobel Prize acceptance speech at the end of the book. Honors students will have an extra assignment to complete with this book.

II. Assignment #1: Read *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and complete a Reading Journal for this book.

1. Your journal will identify moments in the book that stand out to you as significant statements during your reading.
2. Please follow the format on the back of this handout.
 - a. You must *type* your journal.
 - b. Your reaction should be *at least* two to three sentences for each statement. Phrases or one-sentence responses will not be enough.
 - c. You will need to have 20 or more entries.
 - d. There are a few ways to approach this reading journal. You can either complete the journal "as you go," stopping your reading to complete the journal, OR (and my preferred method) you can highlight key passages as you read and THEN complete the journal once you're finished reading for the day. This allows you to keep focused on your reading without interrupting your train-of-thought.

*Example quote taken from *Night*. Please do not use this in your own journal:

Page #	Chapter	Significant Statement	Your Reaction—Why is this quote significant? Why did it stand out to you? Did it challenge you to think differently? How? What questions does it raise for you?
xv	Intro.	The witness has forced himself to testify. For the youth of today, for the children who will be born tomorrow. He does not want his past to become their future.	This quote makes me think about how painful Wiesel's experience must have been if he had to force himself to write this book. It also makes me realize how important it was to him. He doesn't want another human to have to experience what he did.

III. Assignment #2:

1. In addition to reading *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, you will also read *Night* by Elie Wiesel. After reading *Night*, you will need to write an essay about the various actions that evoked the dehumanization of the Jews.
 - a. You must *type* your essay.
 - b. Your essay must be 500 or more words.
 - c. The essay will need to be at least one page in MLA format.
 - d. Please be cautious of your grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
 - e. This will be my first impression of your writing abilities and will help me gauge what we need to learn this year. Please do your best.
 - f. Give specific examples from the book of actions of dehumanization. Explain how this affected the Jews and compare it to a present example of dehumanization in today's society.