

World Lit 10 Honors Summer Reading Guidelines

“The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father’s servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons— their love, their sacrifices, their lies.”

You are required to engage in a close reading of your summer reading novel, *The Kite Runner*.

You may be wondering, “What exactly is close reading?” Well, it involves getting to know the text through annotation; you will read as a scholar, critically and purposefully, with a pen or pencil in hand, marking passages and making notations about whatever you feel is striking or significant. To annotate effectively, you should identify and consider important resources of language in each work, such as: connotation, metaphor, irony, syntax, diction, and tone, all of which illuminate the author’s style and purpose. This endeavor, which you may feel slows down your pace, helps you process, facilitates understanding, and is also a practical referencing tool. When you return in the fall and need to refresh your memory to write an essay or to prepare for a Socratic seminar, your notations will prove invaluable.

Note: Because annotation is subjective, you may find that your peers have marked or that your teacher is citing words, phrases, or entire passages that you did not. That is okay. You will likely note similar overarching ideas.

The following literary devices, although not exhaustive, may be helpful in focusing your annotations:

**diction – choices of vocabulary and sentence structure that create a specific effect. Think, for instance, of the different connotations among words like ‘smell,’ ‘fragrance,’ and ‘stench.’ Consider the impact of short, choppy sentences versus long, fluid ones. Does the way a character speak indicate something about her educational level or social class?*

**figures of speech – non-literal uses of words to create powerful imagery and meanings; examples include similes, metaphors, personification, etc.*

**tone – the prevailing attitude of a passage or speaker. Authors use word choice, sentence structure, and figurative language to convey the way a character or the narrator feels about and event, topic, or another character. Ask how a passage would be spoken out loud: sarcastically? reverently? approvingly?*

**symbolism – A symbol can be a person, object, action, or situation that plays a role in the story but also takes on added significance. A child, for instance, may come to represent the loss of innocence; a tree may represent a memory of happier days; a trip may represent a journey of self-discovery. For something to function as a symbol, it usually appears multiple times in the story in ways that accumulate associations and significance.*