

10th Grade Honors English Students:

Welcome! Next year, we will be reading texts from several cultures and traditions. It will be a wonderful chance for you to reflect on the world, yourself, and what it means to be a human being. I look forward to having you in class!

All students who will be taking 10th Grade Honors English during the 2021-2022 school year are required to read four books and write a reflection paper before the school year begins. These selections represent both classical and contemporary world literature.

You can try to find online PDFs for the books if you cannot find print copies. Don't forget to check the local library as well! If you'd like to stay in touch over the summer, you can join the ENG II Honors 2021 Summer classroom with the code **ulnb3fw**.

1. Required Reading:

- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
This novel details the journey of a shepherd boy from Spain to Morocco to Egypt, in a quest for success and self-discovery.

2. Fiction: Choose one of the following books.

- *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck
This classic novel is set in China in the 1920s, and traces the life of a poor farmer and his family as they strive for survival, wealth, and happiness.
- *Ariadne: A Novel* by Jennifer Saint
This story is a retelling of the Greek myths about Ariadne, Theseus, and the Minotaur, told from Ariadne's point of view.
- *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
This is the story of an Indian youth who survives in a boat for several months after the ship his family was traveling on sinks.

3. Finding Meaning in Life: Choose one of the following books.

- *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl
This is a classic autobiographical piece by a man who was imprisoned in four different Nazi camps, and survived. The lessons he learned about suffering and finding meaning in life have taught generations of readers.
- *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse

This well-known novel retells the life of Siddhartha Gautama, a Hindu prince who searches for the end of suffering, and eventually becomes enlightened as the Buddha.

4. Life Advice: Choose one of the following books.

- *The Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff
This nonfiction book is an analysis of the Winnie the Pooh stories through the lens of Taoism; we will study the *Tao te Ching* this year.
- *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz.
This piece of nonfiction outlines the wisdom of the Toltec people, an ancient society who lived in Mexico. These rules for living include being true to your word, not taking things personally, not making assumptions, and trying your best.

5. Reflection: Write a reflection paper in which you connect the ideas from your “Life Advice” book choice (either *The Tao of Pooh* or *The Four Agreements*) to your life.

- Have an intro in which you introduce the book.
- Body paragraphs: Choose at least three main ideas from the book, explain what they are, and explain how each connects to your life. For each idea, have a direct quote from the book (the quote should be MORE than a chapter title).
- In your conclusion, give your overall opinion about the book.
- Use MLA in-text citations and have a Works Cited at the end.
- **It is due on the first day of class.**

You will be evaluated on your understanding of these texts when you return to school in September.

Happy reading, listening, and reflecting!

Dr. Marilyn Pryle
English Teacher, Abington Heights High School