



## OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

### Level English II

**In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become lifelong learners.**

You are scheduled to take English II for the 2017-2018 school year. For the summer of 2017, students will be required to carefully read **one** of the following novels of their choice:

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

Red Rising by Pierce Brown

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood by Marjane Satrapi \*This is a graphic novel\*

Night by Elie Wiesel

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

Students will work with their chosen novel upon their return to school. However, during the summer months, students should annotate their reading by writing comments and questions on sticky notes as explained in the attached document. For these reasons, students will need to have a copy of the book for several months in order to complete all of the assignments. Some of these novels have mature content, so please research the novel choices and guide your student in making this decision.

It is best if all students enrolled in English II for the upcoming school year have this novel read prior to the first day of school, August 16, 2017. Sticky notes will be due within the first three weeks, leading to a major grade assignment. Since there will be several assignments over the summer reading text during the first weeks of school, students should come to class prepared to discuss the text using their notes and personal observations. Thank you for your cooperation and continuing interest in your child's education.

Sincerely,

The English II Team

### Novel Summaries (by Amazon)

#### Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

Victoria Aveyard's sweeping tale of seventeen-year-old Mare, a common girl whose once-latent magical power draws her into the dangerous intrigue of the king's palace. Will her power save her or condemn her?

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood--those with common, Red blood serve the Silver- blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own.

To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard--a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.

#### Red Rising by Pierce Brown

Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. Yet he spends his life willingly, knowing that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better world for his children.

But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. Soon he discovers that humanity reached the surface generations ago. Vast cities and lush wilds spread across the planet. Darrow—and Reds like him—are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class.

Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity's overlords struggle for power. He will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization against the best and most brutal of Society's ruling class. There, he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies . . . even if it means he has to become one of them to do so.

#### Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

Night by Elie Wiesel

In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family. His memories of the nightmare world of the death camps present him with an intolerable question: how can the God he once so fervently believed in have allowed these monstrous events to occur? There are no easy answers in this harrowing book, which probes life's essential riddles with the lucid anguish only great literature achieves. It marks the crucial first step in Wiesel's lifelong project to bear witness for those who died.

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood by Marjane Satrapi

Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

*Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

Eleanor, 15, is the new girl at school and bullied because she's overweight and dresses in a flamboyant manner. Park is a half-Korean boy who has lived in Omaha, Nebraska, all his life but still feels like an outsider. This is a story of first love, which very slowly builds from the first day Eleanor sits next to Park on the school bus. First they ignore each other, and then they slowly become friends through their love of comic books and 1980s alternative music. Park is the only good thing in Eleanor's life. Her home life is a miserable exercise in trying to stay out of her abusive stepfather's way, and finding new ways to wear the same clothes repeatedly since there is no money for anything extra. Park adores everything about Eleanor, and she finds refuge at his house after school with his understanding parents. Things finally explode at Eleanor's house and Eleanor and Park's relationship is truly tested.

## Sticky Note Annotations

The following are possible topics that could be answered on your sticky notes. Topics can be used more than once, but remember you need at least 20 sticky notes in your book.

### Tapping Prior Knowledge

- This reminds me of...
- This relates to...

### Forming Interpretations

- What this means to me is...
- I think this represents...

### Asking Questions

- I wonder why...
- What if...
- How come...

### Monitoring

- I got lost here because...
- I need to reread the part where...

### Predicting

- I'll bet that...
- I think...

### Revise Meaning

- At first thought I thought \_\_\_\_\_. But now I...
- My latest thought about this is...
- I'm getting a different picture here because...

### Visualizing

- I can picture \_\_\_\_\_ when I read this because...
- In my mind I see...

### Analyzing the Author's Craft

- A great line in this books is...
- This word/phrase stands out because...
- I like how the author shows...

### Making Connections

- This reminds me of...
- I experienced this once when...
- I can relate to this because...

### Reflecting and Relating

- So, the big idea is...
- A conclusion I'm drawing is...
- This is relevant to my life because...

### Evaluating

- I like/don't like \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- This could be more effective if...
- The most important message is...

### Miscellaneous

- Stop at a passage you find vivid or suspenseful and list a few specific words that help create that effect.
- When you find something in the reading that is funny or sad, add a note describing how the author created the moment.
- When you encounter a word you don't know, write it down and your guess about what it means. Then look it up and see if you were right.
- Does the character in the book remind you of a family member or close friend? Write the character's name. Who does he/she remind you of, and why?
- Take note of any literary terms you notice. (Importance of setting, tone characterization, themes, conflicts...)