

May 14, 2019

Future Pre-AP English 9 student,

Congratulations on enrolling in Pre-AP English 9! The English course you take next year will be rigorous, stimulating, and rewarding. The workload for this course will be intense; however, this course will thoroughly prepare you for future work in AP classes.

All students enrolled in Pre-AP English 9 are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Students are expected to read, annotate, and take notes on their reading. Furthermore, the books you will read require deep consideration and ample reflection, so resist the temptation to put off the assignment until just before school starts. Students are responsible for obtaining these books on their own; you can pick up copies from a bookstore, or you can purchase the books from an online retailer like Amazon. Please see the second page of this document for your specific assignment, **which is to be completed, and in class, the first day of school.**

This course will require extensive reading throughout the year as well. Pre-AP students will be required to purchase some of the books read in class. You are advised to prepare for the potential cost that taking a Pre-AP class entails.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can contact me through email, or on Google Classroom. Join my Pre-AP English 9 Summer Reading Class using this code: **ww0r90** ASAP. Welcome to the Pre-AP/AP program; I look forward to working with you next year!

Sincerely,

Amanda Koulianos  
Highland High School  
English Department

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## Pre AP English 9 Required Summer Reading Assignments

**Your assignment is to read *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson and *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore. You will annotate each book and complete a dialectical journal as you read.**

### Annotations

Annotating means reading with a pen or pencil in hand and marking the text in a helpful, meaningful way. Here are some suggestions:

- Write comments in the margin especially to ask questions, jot down main ideas/events, make connections, etc.
- Star any passages you think are very important
- Underline any sentences that you found appealing or that made you think
- Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar to you
- Bracket areas that you were confused about or did not fully understand

### Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is a written log that you keep, representing a conversation that you have with a text. Basically, you as you read, any information you find thought provoking, or any information that adds to the character, theme, conflict, setting, or mood, you jot it down. After you cite the information from the book, you then add your personal reflection (thoughts) from the provided passage. Your Dialectical Journal should be broken into three columns:

1) Quotes from the Text

2) Area of focus (Character, Theme, Conflict, Setting, Mood). You could have more than one area listed, just make sure you provide an explanation for all areas listed. Change the font color as needed for clarity. (See my example below) I have also attached blank Google Docs for each book to help you with the process.

3) Commentary/Analysis.

Choose meaningful, powerful, or thought-provoking quotations from the text to include in the left column, and be sure to include page numbers. In the center column, name the area of focus for the selected quotation. In the right column, write down your reflections on the quoted passages. You should also use the right column to make predictions, ask questions, make connections, and analyze the text for literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery, etc.) You should include a minimum of 30 entries for each book. See to it that your entries are distributed evenly throughout the text; in other words, make sure that you don't just include quotations from the first few chapters of the book. Be sure to include page numbers with your quotes. Look at an example from *The Other Wes Moore* below for guidance.

Quotes from the Text	Area of Focus	Commentary
"But I didn't even <i>know</i> the other Wes Moore. Why did I feel this connection with him, why did I feel like he "carried part of me with him" in that prison cell (xii)?"	Character  Theme	This quote establishes the empathetic side of the author. There is something pulling him toward the other Wes Moore, but he cannot figure out why. He is losing sleep constantly thinking of him and the cell he now lives in forever.  There is a life lesson that the author, Wes Moore, will learn from exploring this case.

		In turn, I feel the reader is also going to gain a life lesson out of this story.
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If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Koulianos at [akoulian@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:akoulian@highland.k12.in.us) or in our Google Classroom. Your question could be posted as a private comment, or a class comment. Some of your thoughts might be similar to fellow classmates, so feel free to start a discussion as you see fit.