



GRAND OAKS HIGH SCHOOL CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Students at Grand Oaks High School who enroll in Dual Credit English 1301 are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Summer reading assignments provide several advantages for students, including maintaining skills over the summer, fostering independent learning, understanding course expectations, creating an initial common framework for discussion and study, supporting college-readiness standards, and promoting lifelong learning. Additionally, students who enroll in a Dual Credit English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

Your student is scheduled to take Dual Credit English 1301 for the 2019-2020 school year. For the summer of 2019, students will be required to carefully read two books from that attached nonfiction list. These selections are indicative of the rigorous reading and thinking required for this course. However, we highly encourage all parents to carefully review the titles on this list and discuss them with your student. Please research the choices, and guide your student in making this decision. You may even want to read it with them.

Students will work to understand these texts through various assignments upon returning 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 both books for several months in order to complete all of the assignments.

All students enrolled in Dual Credit English 1301 for the upcoming school year are expected to have the books read, 20 sticky note annotations for the first book of choice, and 20 sticky note annotations for the second book of choice complete prior to the first day of school, August 14, 2019. Since there will be several assignments over the summer reading texts during the first weeks of school, students should come to class prepared to discuss the texts using their notes and personal observations on the first day of class. Thank you for your cooperation and continuing interest in your child's education.

Sincerely,

The Dual Credit English Team

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 by the time school starts.

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...

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.
- I'm getting a different picture here because... 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...)

AP and Dual Credit Nonfiction Reading List

ENVIRONMENTAL/HEALTH ISSUES

Title	Author	Description
<i>Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America</i>	Thomas L. Friedman	Explores the decline of our planet because of global warming and overcrowding and offers solutions to the downward trend. Pulitzer Prize winning author.
<i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle</i>	Barbara Kingsolver	One family's quest to "live off the land" in modern America
<i>Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us</i>	Michael Moss	An investigative report that links the rise in obesity in America with the rise of the processed foods industry
Any nonfiction book (<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto, Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation</i>)	Michael Pollan	Author asks interesting questions about food, where it comes from, how its history affects our lives, and how it becomes sustenance for our lives
<i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal</i>	Eric Schlosser	An exploration of the history of fast food, the impact it has had on our lives, and the myths we should forget about it
<i>The World Without Us</i>	Alan Weisman	A simple concept of imagining the Earth without human beings offers an intriguing way to explore our impact on the planet

SCIENCE / MEDICINE (Especially appealing for students who are science oriented or interested in the medical field)

Title	Author	Description
<i>Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife</i>	Eben Alexander	Dr. Alexander's story of an illness and a near-death experience that changed this skeptic's philosophy of health
<i>Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness</i>	Susannah Cahalan	A twenty-two-year-old reporter's memoir of suffering from a rare brain disease that opened research in the medical community
<i>Surgeon!: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Doctor</i>	Dr. Richard Caleel	A must read for anyone interested in the medical profession
<i>The Emperor of All Maladies</i>	Siddhartha Mukherjee	The "biography" of cancer and its treatment for over a thousand years
Any nonfiction book (<i>Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal; Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife; Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers</i>)	Mary Roach	#1 best-selling author who asks questions we would rarely ask in a scientific way about our digestive system, ghosts, and dead bodies
<i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales</i>	Oliver Sacks	Recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders
<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Rebecca Skloot	The story of a poor Southern tobacco farmer's wife whose cells—taken without her knowledge—became the first "immortal cells" in history. They are still alive today and have been used in numerous experiments since her death over 60 years ago.

AP and Dual Credit Nonfiction Reading List

GENERAL NONFICTION

Title	Author	Description
<i>Power Plays: Politics, Football, and Other Blood Sports</i>	John M. Barry	An examination of the causes and effects of the pursuit of power in the arenas of the media, politics, and even college football. Award winning and NYT Bestselling author.
<i>Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking</i>	Susan Cain	Real-life examples that could change the way we see quiet members of our society
<i>Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America</i>	Barbara Ehrenreich	One woman's story of attempting to survive on minimum wage
<i>How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization</i>	Franklin Foer	A surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between.
Any nonfiction book (<i>Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking; David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants; Outliers: The Story of Success; The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference</i>)	Malcolm Gladwell	#1 best-selling author explores dynamics of our world in new ways
<i>Give and Take: A Revolutionary Approach to Success</i>	Adam M. Grant	Instead of focusing on the qualities of the successful, this book investigates relationships and networking's influence on a person's success.
<i>unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation</i>	Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson	Guide to seeing through 21 st century media spin by the founders of FactCheck.org
<i>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything OR Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance</i>	Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	Intriguing, easily readable explorations of data that answer questions like "Why do drug dealers live with their moms?" and "Do parents really matter?" Second volume asks new questions, such as "Are people hardwired for altruism or selfishness?"
<i>Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong</i>	James W. Loewen	One history professor's attempt to correct mistakes and misconceptions he found in several high school American history textbooks. Winner of American Book Award.
<i>Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business</i>	Neil Postman	An investigation of the television's effect on American culture
<i>The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids</i>	Alexandra Robbins	An exploration of how our current educational climate of high-stakes testing and pressure to achieve affects students
<i>I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban</i>	Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb	Memoir of Miss Upton's hero, a young Pakistani girl who was an activist for girls' education and became an enemy on the Taliban's hit list.
<i>Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail</i>	Cheryl Strayed	Memoir of the author's 1100-mile hike following a difficult time in her life
<i>A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League</i>	Ron Suskind	A young man's journey from the slums of DC to Brown University
<i>One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School</i>	Scott Turow	The author's compelling experiences of being indoctrinated at America's most prestigious law school

AP and Dual Credit Nonfiction Reading List

HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS

Title	Author	Description
<i>Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth</i>	Reza Aslan	Detailed, thoroughly-researched biography that “challenges long-held assumptions”
Any historical account (<i>Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America; Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State and the Birth of Liberty; The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History</i>)	John M. Barry	Best-selling author explores highly-charged incidents in American history
<i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i>	Ishmael Baeh	One young man’s experience as a child soldier during wars in Africa’s Sierra Leone.
<i>One Summer: America, 1927</i>	Bill Bryson	Account of an eventful season that includes Babe Ruth, Al Capone, Charles Lindbergh, and Calvin Coolidge
<i>Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler’s Sentence of Death in August 1944</i>	Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre	Dramatic story of the liberation of Paris. Exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written
<i>Columbine</i>	Dave Cullen	10 years after the tragic events in Littleton, Colorado, asks questions about not only the shooters and victims but also the culture that surrounded such an incident.
<i>Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune</i>	Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr.	Account of a reclusive heiress that spans from the Gilded Age of the 1800s to the 21 st century and a mysterious history of her family and fortune
<i>Man’s Search for Meaning</i>	Viktor E. Frankel	Psychiatrist’s memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages. Listed in a Library of Congress survey as among top ten books that made a difference in people’s lives.
Any nonfiction account (<i>The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism; Team of Rivals; The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln; No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt; Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream; The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys: An American Saga</i>)	Doris Kearns Goodwin	Pulitzer-prize winning author writes in-depth biographies of some of the most influential figures of 20 th century America
<i>Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption</i> OR <i>Seabiscuit</i>	Laura Hillenbrand	Unforgettable true accounts of determination and the indomitable human spirit
<i>Profiles in Courage for Our Time</i>	Caroline Kennedy	Continues the legacy her father began with the original Profiles in Courage. Includes the accounts of thirteen acts of modern political bravery.
Any nonfiction book (<i>Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster; Into the Wild; Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith; Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman; Eiger Dreams: Ventures Among Men and Mountains</i>)	Jon Krakauer	Best-selling author writes about harrowing contemporary journeys that test the limits of humanity

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Any nonfiction account <i>(The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America; In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin; Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History; Thunderstruck)</i>	Erik Larson	Exciting stories and mysteries that border on true crime
Any biography <i>(American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House; Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power; Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship; American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation)</i>	Jon Meacham	Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and editor of <i>Newsweek</i> magazine writes award-winning, in-depth studies of some of the
<i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>	Azar Nafisi	One bold teacher who shares forbidden Western literature with seven Iranian women
<i>The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary</i>	Simon Winchester	The interesting account of a giant undertaking and the two men most responsible for it
<i>Just Mercy</i>	Bryan Stevenson	Lawyer, Bryan Stevenson's account of one of his first cases connected to his legal practice the Equal Justice Initiative. The story of a wrongly accused man facing the death penalty.

TRUE CRIME

Title	Author	Description
<i>Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders</i>	Vincent Bugliosi	Written by the lead prosecuting attorney, this book recounts the horrific crimes committed by Charles Manson and four of his followers
<i>Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb</i>	Bernard Lefkowitz	Account of 1989 rape of a mentally retarded girl by members of a NJ high school football team. Several parallels to like crimes in recent years, including those in Steubenville, Ohio.
<i>A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder, and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption</i>	Dina Temple-Raston	Explores the aftermath of the 1998 killing of James Byrd, Jr., a black man who was chained and dragged along a country road by three white males.