



AP ENGLISH LANG & COMP SUMMER READING FOR 2020

ABOUT THIS CLASS

AP English Language and Composition will focus on growth in the following areas: reading, writing, speaking, listening, self-advocacy, empathy and problem solving. Notice the particular emphasis on the word "growth." While AP Lang has in mind college preparedness and is considered a college level class, our goal is not simply to bring every student to a specific level of readiness but to grow every single student.

THE BOOK: *THE NICKEL BOYS* BY COLSON WHITEHEAD

- When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. Based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers.
- *The Nickel Boys* won this year's Pulitzer Prize, Whitehead's second prize in the last 4 years. Please note that there are some descriptions of the violence that the boys experienced while at the school. Also note, that some of the chapters jump into to the future.
- **Purchase the book via Amazon, or check it out from the library, but know we will be using the book in class for a few weeks when we return to school in August. Paperback will be out June 20, but hard cover is about the same price.**

INSTRUCTOR

Mr. Markus
rmarkus@pths209.org
Room 308 or English
each on course
schedule

DUE DATE :

**Monday, August
17th, 2020 - The
first Day of
School.**

**No Late work will
be Accepted !!!**

GRADING

**Assignment Valued at
50 Points**

A = 46-50 points

B = 42-45 points

C = 38-41 points

D = 35-37 points

F = 34 points and below

Remember: a low grade or zero for your first assignment can have a negative impact on your grade

the NICKEL BOYS



COLSON WHITEHEAD

AUTHOR OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



EXPECTATIONS

Annotations:

Read the entire book over the summer.

Annotate **while** you are reading.

You can use any method you prefer:

- Write in the book
- Use Stickies or Post-its
- Keep a written or typed Journal or notebook with all of your annotations, marked by chapter.

Expectations are that you will have annotations throughout the book.

Strong readers keep their pen in their hand, ready to mark any thought that pops in their head while reading – *a goal should be 5-6 annotations for every chapter*

You are annotating for:

- Ideas regarding the themes of the book and what the author's message is
- Language – the tone, diction, phrasing, the author's style and structure
- Cultural connections – thoughts on how the novel comments on situations in society



EXPECTATIONS

Journaling:

For each of the 16 chapters, you are required to contribute a journal entry. Each consists of the following:

- A *developed* (6-8 sentence) paragraph
- It is best to keep the journal like a "diary," making entries while you read as opposed to all at the end.
- Your Journal entries can either be handwritten in a spiral notebook or typed on a Word or Google Document, and printed

Higher Level Entries (A or high B grade)

- Analyze the text for use of rhetorical techniques (e.g. tone, structure, style, imagery) and how they communicate the author's purpose
- Make connections between the text and larger societal issues, themes, or the author's purpose
- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text

Basic Responses (C or low B grade)

- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Describe what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel

If you have any questions, please send an email at any time