

May 5, 2019

Dear Student:

Welcome to **Sophomore Accelerated English**. Mrs. Culp, Ms. Dowling, Ms. Handt, and Mrs. McInteer will be the teachers for this course for the 2019-2020 academic year. We hope that you will enjoy the challenge of this course. We are looking for intellectually curious, self-disciplined students who are prepared to be actively involved in their own learning.

One of your first challenges involves preparing for the academic year by completing the summer reading **before the first day of the fall semester**. We all expect that you will read the required works from start to finish without skimming or skipping pages. As active readers, you should be using one or more of the following techniques while reading: highlighting or underlining favorite quotes, marking questions in the margins of the books, using post-it notes to mark passages, or looking up meanings of unfamiliar words. It is your responsibility to locate your own copies that you may write in. Be sure to have them with you when school begins in the fall. There will be graded assessments—test, paper, and discussion—over this material.

These summer books will appeal to the accelerated student because of their high interest, intricate plots, and memorable characters. The two works are:

1. *The Glass Castle* (Jeannette Walls)

What to look for: the search for the American Dream, the effects of poverty on the family and the individual, the search for identity, parent/child relationships, forgiveness

2. *Siddhartha* (Herman Hesse)

What to look for: the journey, man's quest for self discovery, good vs. evil, the relationship of nature and man, the necessity of suffering, the search for identity, (further notes attached)

Accelerated and Advanced Placement literature is thought-provoking and designed to expand and challenge your current thinking about the world and yourself. We expect that you will be prepared to discuss events and themes which are powerful, emotional, and sometimes disturbing, as they are depicted in this literature.

We look forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

Barbara Handt, Kelley Culp, Jerrica Dowling, and Amy McInteer