

Sophomore Honors World Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

For your summer reading, please read and annotate the text *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell (Paperback 2007). There will be a multiple-choice test and several graded classroom discussions about the summer reading during the first two weeks of school.

Annotation Purpose and Types of Responses:

Annotations require you to be an active reader. As you read, you will engage with the text. You might do some of the following:

Question:

You might jot down things you actually want to know or are wondering about, things you want to criticize/critique, or a word or term that you will then look up. Any question that could be researched easily on the Internet must include an answer. Questions that are not thoughtful will not count as annotations.

Make Connections:

While reading, you might try to connect material from the book to yourself, to another text/movie/television show/play/song, or to the real world. Draw conclusions based on these connections.

Visualize:

Identify text that evokes a particular image. Either explain which part you can clearly picture and why OR draw the image.

Clarify:

Share your “aha!” moments (mini-epiphanies). Look for surprises and irony. Make inferences and generalizations while reading.

Evaluate:

Provide opinions/comments about specific sections of the text. React emotionally and logically to what you are reading. Agree or disagree with the author while you read. Analyze relevance and credibility.

Summarize with Gist Statements:

Provide a one or two sentence summary of the section you have read. Look for themes and main ideas.

Analyze literary elements or the author’s writing style:

What elements of language can you identify that were used by the author? How effectively did the author use these elements?

Annotation Requirements:

You need 56 annotations: Please write or type approximately 7 high quality annotations for each chapter of the text. Both the introduction and conclusion of the book count as one chapter. Thus, you should have a minimum of 56 annotations.

Give context to your annotations: Write the page number of your annotation and also write the first sentence of any specific quotes from the book.

Format your text: Double-space your typed text. Use 12-point size and Times New Roman font. Always use black ink for your papers.

Label your paper: Put your name, Honors World Literature and Composition, and the date in the top right corner of the first paper (single spaced).

You must write an adequate explanation for each of your annotations. You must give enough analysis for each annotation so that your teacher clearly understands your thinking process. Develop your ideas fully. Cryptic answers that are too concise will receive lower grades. Your teacher will respect students who take the time to do proper thinking and writing. This kind of effort is never shallow or brief. Dig deeply.

Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and neatness counts: These writing skills will be evaluated along with the content of your annotations. Proofread your work carefully. Please write everything down in complete sentences.

Do not just skim the book and do only so-so annotating. Your teacher will know, and of course, your grade will suffer. More importantly, you will be hobbling yourself with respect to the rest of the year, not to mention wasting your summer time. Start learning well *now* and put yourself ahead of the curve.

The use of Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes, or any other “study guide” service, is prohibited.... now and for the rest of high school. This is plagiarism. This is cheating. Any student caught cheating in any way will be guilty of academic misconduct and will be dealt with according to school policy.

Begin this project early in the summer. There is much thoughtful work to be done. Do not wait until the summer’s end. If you do, then you are only making things unnecessarily hard for yourself and continuing poor habits of mind that will severely impact your education in the years to come. Just sit down and begin working, early. Don’t complain. Don’t stress. Just do.

The annotations and the reading of the text will be due the first day of class. If you have registered late for the course and cannot complete the assignment by the due date, then e-mail your teacher. Make sure your counselor also e-mails your teacher. Your teacher will need *proof* of your registration time. If you registered after August 1st, you will have until the end of September to complete the summer reading assignment.