



BRURIAH HIGH SCHOOL
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Dear In-Coming Freshman,

Critical reading is paramount to success in 9th grade English and beyond. You must be a reader this summer. Your reading will contribute to your success in class this coming school year.

All students entering 9th grade must read:

1. ***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and**
2. ***Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Please purchase these books. All books are available for purchase from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, as well as other used book sites. By purchasing, the books, rather than borrowing, you will be able to annotate your book. This will help with comprehension, and it will enhance your ability to discuss your reading when we begin class in the fall. Follow the instructions below as you annotate.

5 W's and How Protocol for Annotating Your Book

Make notes in the margins that answer:

Who? (Who are the characters and what do you learn about them? characteristics? desires? thoughts?)

What? (What happens in the plot? How does the conflict play out? What surprises you? What confuses you?)

Where? (Where is the story set [time and place]? Does the setting change?)

When? (When do you see changes in the characters? When does the story get interesting? When does the author do something unusual with the characters or the storyline?)

Why? (Why does the author make stylistic choices? Why does the author create the characters and the conflict, the way he/she does?)

How? (How does the author craft an engaging story? make the characters and events real? create images and emotions? play around with structure or word choice?)

Should you also mark interesting vocabulary? Of course! Consider making a list of words you do not know inside the front or back cover of your book -- and define them.

Should you mark interesting and profound quotes? Of course! Look for quotes that particularly reveal themes and demonstrate any of the above literary and style choices.

We will have discussions about these books the first week of school. Please read and be prepared to enter the complex and exciting world of 9th grade English.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Kasper

“The books that help you most are those which make you think the most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty.” -- Pablo Neruda

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