

# Dwight Morrow High School/Academies@Englewood

## Department of English

### 2018 Summer Assignment for Incoming Freshman

Welcome the class of 2022! We're looking forward to working with you and know that this year you will make new friends, experience interesting challenges, and learn to think in ways you never before considered. This worksheet describes the book you must read and the corresponding assignment you must complete prior to the beginning of the school year.

#### ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

Arnold "Junior" Spirit is a fourteen-year-old Spokane Indian who chooses to attend a white school off the reservation in an attempt to escape the hopelessness and defeat he sees in his family and tribemates. Junior struggles to overcome many challenges while trying to find his place in two different worlds. *Please Note: This book, a 2007 National Book Award Winner, gives a realistic picture of life for Native Americans on reservations in the United States today. Please be aware that it is a PG-13 read and contains references to alcoholism, violence and death, and some crude language (the kind one might see in a teen comedy film).*



Please Note: The text of the entire book, including audio read by the author, can be found online: <http://esl-bits.net/ESL.English.Learning.Audiobooks/Absolutely.True.Diary/indice.html>

#### **Reading Journal – DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

While Reading: For EVERY chapter, take notes (with page numbers) as you read. These do not need to be lengthy, but they should include all relevant incidents that are significant, memorable, or strikingly important. Make sure to include the major events and challenges that Junior faced in each chapter as well as the other characters he encountered. You may take these notes in paragraphs or bullet points, whichever you would prefer.

After Reading: Identify THREE major themes or ideas that had a significant impact on Junior's experiences. For each theme, describe at least THREE events from the novel that you see as examples of that theme. Explain why it relates well to the theme. Include the chapter name and page numbers for each event.

#### **Formatting Criteria:**

- Your Reading Journal must be neatly handwritten in a bound composition book.
- Print your name neatly on the cover of your Reading Journal.
- Use blue or black pen for your notes (not pencil or other ink colors).
- Use one inch margins on all sides of the page.
- Write notes ONLY on the front (the right hand side) of each page, not on the back.
- Begin each chapter's notes on a new page of the Reading Journal.
- Put each major theme with its related events on a separate page of the Reading Journal. The themes will be AFTER all of the chapter notes.

*Please see the back for grading rubric.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Score = \_\_\_\_\_/40

### Scoring Rubric – Reading Journal

Requirements	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Excellent
<b>Chapter Notes</b> (20 points)	Does not contain notes for all chapters or notes are lacking details about characters and important events (0-13 points)	Contains some notes for every chapter; may not describe characters and important events consistently (14-17 points)	Contains detailed notes for every chapter, which consistently describe characters and important events (18-20 points)
<b>Themes</b> (15 points)	Does not clearly identify three themes and/or does not provide or describe three examples for each (0-10 points)	Partial or unclear identification of themes; examples may be unrelated or incomplete (11-13 points)	Identifies three significant themes, each with three related, clearly explained examples (14-15 points)
<b>Formatting Requirements</b> (5 points)	Few/no formatting requirements have been met (0-3 points)	Most formatting requirements have been met (4 points)	All formatting requirements have been met (5 points)

*Please write your name on the line above and tape this rubric inside the cover of your Reading Journal with this side showing.*