

Summer Reading English II American Literature

1. Carefully read and annotate the novel of your choice from the list below. Be sure to use the annotation tips listed.
2. Be prepared to write an in-class literary analysis essay on the novel during the first week of school.

House Made of Dawn by N. Scott Momaday

War Dances by Sherman Alexie

The Namesake: A Novel by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

What to annotate:

Character details and evidence of character development

Unfamiliar vocabulary

Observations about what is being said

Questions you have

Things you agree or disagree with

Themes that are being developed

The author's tone

Any literary devices you notice (i.e. figurative language, symbols, imagery, etc.)

Connections you see to history, contemporary ideas or beliefs, social/political context

Anything else that "speaks" to you

General types of annotations:

Questions and answers

Summary of main ideas

Character descriptions

Patterns and motifs

Personal connections to the text

Explanations/clarification of the text

Marking important passages

Effective annotations use a combination of all of the above approaches.

How to annotate: Either in the novel or a notebook

Make brief comments in the margins or between lines

Circle or box words or phrases

Indicate and define new/unfamiliar vocabulary

Write questions in the margins

Underline or highlight passages connected to your commentary (use this sparingly and always add a comment next to what you underline)

Make note of thematic ideas (as they come up) in the margins or at the top of a page