**Ferris High School 9th Grade Honors Summer Reading Assignment**

**Overall Assignment:**

Thank you for choosing to be a part of our 9 Honors classes. We are looking forward to a fun year! During your freshmen year in English, we will be exploring the concept of coming of age. Please pick an age appropriate novel that falls under the coming of age genre, and read it carefully to identify how the characters, particularly the protagonist, in your novel change, and come of age.

While you read, take notes that will help you quickly access key details and text evidence during class. These are YOUR notes to use during class assignments, and they will not be graded, so please use whatever format will help you. **You will be asked to participate in class discussions and complete an in-class essay about how your protagonist comes of age.**

**Ideas for note taking:**

- Use post it notes to flag important passages.

-Directly annotate your text (if you own the book).

-Take two column notes where you record a direct quote and reflect on its importance.

**Please use the following information regarding coming of age to focus your reading and help you take notes:**

**Definition of coming of age:**  A type of novel where the protagonist is initiated into adulthood through knowledge and/or experience. This often occurs by a process of disillusionment.

When a character comes of age, they may shift from:

**innocence to experience      ignorance to knowledge             idealism to realism**

**immature responses to mature responses**

While you read, pay close attention to the events that create these shifts and what the character learns as they experience these changes.

You are free to choose any novel that fits this genre (refer to the link below for suggestions). The following list are coming of age novels that are available in the Ferris bookroom. These novels can be checked out from the Ferris business office during their summer business hours.

*Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeifer

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

*Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

*Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

*Farewell to Manzanar* by Jean Wakatsuki

*Staying Fat For Sarah* *Burns* by Chris Crutcher

Suggested titles : <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/coming-of-age>

(*To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Lord of the Flies*, *The Old Man and the Sea* and *Romeo and Juliet* are works that may be covered as a class, so please choose other titles for your summer reading)

If you have a question about your novel selection and the assignment, do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you next year!

Sincerely,

9th Grade Honors Teachers

Ashley Jones  [ashleyj@spokaneschools.org](mailto:ashleyj@spokaneschools.org)

Maria Sturgeon [marias@spokaneschools.org](mailto:marias@spokaneschools.org)

Emily Torres [emilyt@spokaneschools.org](mailto:emilyt@spokaneschools.org)