



THE KNOX SCHOOL

English II 2020 Summer Assignment

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie

Part One: Read and Take Notes/Annotate.

As you read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, make note of key themes and ideas that appear throughout the novel.

It is recommended that you purchase and annotate the text to develop a better understanding of the novel. Tips for annotation are attached.

Part Two: Essay (choose ONE of the options below)

Question #1: In Alexie's book, Junior was certainly not the only person on his reservation to feel trapped, helpless, and hopeless. Why, when others on his reservation have given up, was Junior a survivor? What made him different from the others? Support your argument using specific examples from the novel and cite them using MLA citation format.

Question #2: Consider the title of the book, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, and write an essay in which you examine Junior's struggle for identity. In what ways does his identity change once he attends the white high school, and are there any ways that he remains the same person? How important is his sense of identity? Support your argument using specific examples from the novel and cite them using MLA citation format.

Guidelines:

1. Proper MLA Format
2. Essay should be at least 500 words.
3. 12 pt Times New Roman font; 1 inch margins
4. Avoid using words like "I" and "You"
5. Include a strong thesis
6. Incorporate textual evidence to support your thesis
7. Avoid SUMMARIZING the book. Be sure to ANALYZE.

Due Date: A PRINTED copy of your assignment will be due on the first day of your English II class.

All late assignments will be subjected to a grade reduction or penalty, as outlined in the course syllabus and copied below:

English Department Late Work Policy:

"All essays and projects are expected to be submitted on or before the due date. Essays not submitted

on time will be subjected to a 10% deduction of max points per day. No essays will be accepted after five (5) days.”

Tips for Annotating a Text

INTERACT with the reading.

- Mark it up! (Make your own key. Annotations are designed to help you understand and be able to review and/or discuss the reading)
 - Use SYMBOLS to mark important details.
 - “?” - I’m not sure what is going on. I’m not sure what is meant by this sentence, paragraph, etc.
 - “!”- This is exciting; I agree
 - ↔ - connections between different parts of the text
 - Color Code! Use colors to mark important details.
 - Words I don’t know and need to look up.
 - Literary devices
 - Important character details
 - Interesting or important details that pertain to understanding the story
- Write in your book (you can also use post-it notes if you prefer not to write in the book)
 - COMMENT on what is happening
 - Do you agree or disagree?
 - Is this a change in characterization? How so?
 - Is this a change in plot/storyline? How did it change?
 - Is this a big even? Small event?
 - Is it a foreshadow of something to come? A flashback of something that happened?
 - QUESTION the text
 - Why is this happening?
 - Why did the author include this? Why it is included here? What purpose does it serve to the text? Would it be different if it was included at a different time in the story? How?
 - Why is the character behaving this way? How is it different from before? What does it reveal about the character?
 - What might this piece reveal about the rest of the story? How does it make something clearer from earlier in the story?
 - CONNECT to the text
 - How can you relate to a character?
 - How can you relate to the author?
 - What about the author’s life is showing in the text?
 - What are some allusions?
 - What are some similar real-life examples of what is happening in the text?
 - ASSOCIATE the text with another reading
 - Textual allusions
 - Similar details
 - Connections between the authors?

LEARN from the text

- Historical Context
 - What is the time period of the story? What is the time period the story was written? How do they connect or differ?

- Author Study
 - What was the author's childhood like? What sparked the author to write this text?
What was the purpose of publishing this text?
- Response to the Text
 - How did readers initially respond to the text when it was published? Has the opinion changed since then? How?

REFLECT on the text

- What was the author's writing style?
- What were some patterns in the writing? Did it remind you of another author?
- What were some key themes or topics discussed in the text?
- Who was the text written for? Did it reach that audience? Why/Why not?
- What was the author's purpose? Did he/she accomplish that purpose?