

Summer Reading 2022 LHS assignment

Freshman, welcome to the high school! I am so excited to be your high school English teacher. In high school, we teach Humanities, the academic disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture. You will be studying World History this year, so your novels reflect this study. **Please check your email after June 15th for an invitation to my English I & II 2022-2023 Google classroom.** You will be able to find this document along with any examples for you to follow for these assignments. As always you can email me jthompson@welshhills.org over the summer - give me a few days to respond.

You will be reading **TWO** novels this summer.

1. Lower High School will be choosing **ONE of the four choice** books from the list below. Read the descriptions and pick the novel that interests you the most. You will be writing a literary analysis on this novel based on one theme prevalent throughout the novel. You have an example on the Google classroom of a literary analysis (all you need to know about literary analysis and how to set it up) to help you with completing this assignment, please follow the formula for writing this type of essay. You will also find attached a rubric of the areas that you will be graded on.
2. You will also be required to read a book of **YOUR OWN CHOICE** and create a book review which will be presented to the class during the first few weeks of school. Please see the Google classroom for an example of what is expected when writing a book review.

PICK ONE and write a literary analysis essay (5+ paragraphs):

1. *Bless Me Ultima* by Rudolpho Anaya

Bless Me, Ultima is about the social-psychological maturation of a Mexican-American, or Chicano, boy living on the eastern plains of New Mexico during the 1940s. The novel begins with Ultima, a *curandera*, or folk healer, going to live with the Márez family during the summer when Antonio is six years old. Antonio is preoccupied with and anxious about attending school and having to be separated from his mother. Related to these concerns is his engrossment with knowing his destiny. This concern is exacerbated by his mother's desire that he become a priest to a community of farmers, where her family lives. At the same time, Antonio is concerned about realizing the wandering desire that stems from his paternal lineage.

Themes include but are not limited to: revenge, fear, super-natural, coming of age, etc.

2. *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys

Salt to the Sea takes place in East Prussia in January 1945. Thousands of refugees try to evacuate as World War II draws to a chaotic close. Four young narrators from different nations experience the terrors of war. Emilia, a fifteen-year-old Polish orphan, follows Florian, an East Prussian restoration artist. She views him as her "knight" after he saves her from a Russian soldier. Both run into Joana, a Lithuanian nurse who is traveling with a group of refugees. All are trying to make their way to West Germany, to the ports of Gotenhafen and Pillau, in the hopes of boarding evacuation ships to safety. Meanwhile, Alfred, a bumbling and hateful Nazi sailor, is stationed at the port of Gotenhafen. There he prepares a ship called the *MV Wilhelm Gustloff* for the evacuation.

Themes include but are not limited to: family, heroism, revenge, trauma, race and ethnicity, etc.

3. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

Nuri, a beekeeper, and his wife Afra, an artist, live happily with their son in beautiful Aleppo. They enjoy a quiet and peaceful life and value the friendship of close friends and extended family. Suddenly, their lives are turned upside down by war and, out of desperation, they make a decision to flee Syria.

Themes include but are not limited to: grief, loss, hope, PTSD, survival, starting again, etc.

4. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Is a classic novel in which a boy named Santiago embarks on a journey seeking treasure in the Egyptian pyramids after having a recurring dream about it and on the way meets mentors, falls in love, and most importantly, learns the true importance of who he is and how to improve himself and focus on what really matters in life.

Themes include but are not limited to: the danger of fear, the unity of nature, the centrality of personal legends