

Summer Reading Assignment

ELA Enriched - Gilman

2019-2020

Congratulations on admittance into the world's most dangerous, terrifying literary experience of your young adult life.

You are at the precipice of a world-altering adventure, and one must begin - well, at the very beginning.

Before you and I have the honor and privilege of exchanging pleasantries on the first day of school, I am selfishly providing you with a task that is reflective of all that I believe is good in this world - a good book, a good film, and guacamole.

Task #1: Read, *with a critical eye*, ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*** by Sherman Alexie.

It is, by far, one of the best books ever written and one of my favorites of all time. It is light, it is humorous, but it is insanely profound. And if you don't love the book, you just won't love me. Fo' real. You should plan on purchasing a copy of the text to bring with you on the first day of class, as our first week of instruction will be loosely based on your understanding of the novel.

Task #2: Watch, *with a critical eye* one of the following films: Disney's **Pocahontas**, **The New World** (2005) directed by Terrence Malick, or **Smoke Signals** (1998) directed by Chris Eyre (but written by Sherman Alexie).

However, if you want to come to class with a leg up and my undying respect, you will have chosen Smoke Signals, as it is written by the same author from Task #1. Your choice.

Choose wisely, young Jedi.

Task #3: Find an opportunity to try a bowl of **fresh guacamole**. You will not be assessed on your reaction to the guac, but in order to understand every analogy in this class, you must first be prepared to handle my intense love and profound appreciation for the almighty avocado.

What will be done with these tasks? Read on...

Your Assignment: Write a literary analysis in which you address the overall themes inherent to ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***, and the film you selected to screen. You must use relevant examples and evidence to support your chosen themes, and your writing should be indicative of your understanding of the novel, and not just what the interwebs say. Your analysis should be no less than two pages, typed *size 12, TNR*.

Ultimately- take a position on the role of the Native American in our current climate and culture. What enduring understanding do you have of this specific collective of people, especially as it is reflected in the novel?

I look forward to you.
Peace, love, and AVOCADO.