

English I Advanced: Summer Reading Assignment

[Diana Adamson](#) and [Jennifer Wood](#) Teachers

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is for you to continue reading over the summer and to begin your journey into English I Advanced.

Method: You will achieve this purpose by selecting one of the following four novels to read and annotate.

Details: This assignment will be due at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

Procedure:

1. Choose one of the following four book choices:

- *Life of Pi* - Yann Martel
- *The Alchemist* - Paulo Coelho
- *The Little Prince* - Antoine de de Saint-Exupéry
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* - Delia Owens

Each of these books is a **coming of age** story and they are all beautiful choices in their own right. If you are unsure which is the best for you, [Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com) has great blurbs about each one of them.

2. One of the most important aspects of summer reading is to read and enjoy what you read, so take time to do that. However, in order to begin reading at the critical thinking levels that will be expected of you in this class, you need to interact with the text. This can easily be done through simple annotations. Consider the following ideas as you read, and remember that highlighting is not all there is to annotating. Take notes in the margin as to **why** you highlighted.

- What motivated the character(s) to move forward? Why?
- What is the mindset of the character as they begin their journey?
- How does their journey begin?
- What kinds of changes in setting do you notice? When does it change? Why? How?

- Do you notice mentors/helpers/influences that are important to the characters?
- How does the character interact with others? Close friends?
- How do the conflicts affect the character?
- What changes do you see in character? Why? How do they evolve as the book progresses?

Other ideas to consider:

- What is happening in the book
- How do you feel about what is happening
- How does this text/author make you feel this way?
- Why does the author want you to feel this way?

You don't need to address all of these. Pick a few as you begin reading and keep track of those ideas as you read through the text.

As we get started in the new school year, we will discuss these ideas, create projects about the texts, and finally write an essay to show me how well you have processed the work we have done with the **coming of age** idea.

Enjoy, and if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at diana.adamson@austinisd.org

Thank you,

Diana Adamson,
Lead English I Advanced Teacher,
McCallum English Department Chair