



# *Juan Seguin High School*

## *Department of English*

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Dear Pre-AP English II Students and Parents:

Congratulations on your first successful year of Pre-AP English. We look forward to continuing the journey towards excellence with you next year in Pre-AP English II.

In order to maintain a standard of excellence there are several things required of you as a student and as a parent. As an individual student you will be encouraged to pursue excellence in all that you do by first making the decision to be dedicated. This decision, you will find, will enable you to do far more that you might have imagined.

Additionally, you will be required to commit yourself to doing all that is required of you in preparation for the 2009/2010 school year.

That said you will be required to obtain copies of and read in their entirety The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, and John Knowles' A Separate Peace. In order to be successful, you must annotate and practice the close reading skills that you have learned in Pre AP English I. (See attached close reading/annotation skill review sheet.) You will be given several assignments within the first couple of weeks of the 2009/2010 school year over the above titles. It is strongly recommended that you acquire these texts at your earliest convenience.

Throughout the upcoming school year we will be reading the following texts and it is **strongly recommended** that each student obtain their own copy. However, if you are unable to purchase a copy of one of the texts, one will be provided by the teacher. The works are: "Cyrano de Bergerac" a play by Edmond Rostand, William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," and All Quiet on the Western Front a novel by Erich Maria Remarque.

Should you have any questions regarding this summer reading assignment, please feel free to contact either Briana Sinden-Redding or Andrea Waldrep via telephone at 682-867-6700 or via school e-mail at the addresses listed below.

We thank you in advance for your support and dedication to the Pre-AP and AP programs at Juan Seguin High School. We look forward to an exceptional year with your students.

Sincerely,

Briana Sinden-Redding  
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# A\*N\*N\*O\*T\*A\*T\*I\*O\*N

A Short Lesson

Compiled from *Laying the Foundation*

**What is Annotating?** It is a method used by readers to unlock meaning and significance of a reading selection. Readers should highlight, underline, and flag with post-its any and all literary devices, syntactical structures, patterns, contrasts, and/or questions they may have of the text.

## HOW YOU SHOULD ANNOTATE:

1. Make brief notes at the top of the page or on sticky notes to mark important plot events.
2. Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar or unusual. Try to figure out what the words mean through the way they are used; supplement your guesses by discussing the words with a teacher or by consulting a dictionary.
3. When new characters are introduced, highlight phrases that describe them.
4. Highlight words, images, and details that seem to form a pattern throughout the text. For example, if a large clock appears in the first chapter, and they you notice the author using the words “timely” or “ticking” in the text, and then an incident occurs in which a character breaks a watch or is late for an appointment, you may have uncovered a pattern of imagery that will lead the close reader to discover at thematic (overall message of the work) idea. Highlight these related strands and observe the rest of the text closely to see if the author uses other linked words, images or details.
5. Highlight passages you think might be symbolic.
6. Mark key ideas and note briefly your reflections about them.
7. Highlight passages in which figurative language appears.
8. When you get an idea while reading the text, note it in a brief form in the margin. You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down.
9. If you have a question about something in the book, write it on the page when it first occurs to you.
10. While participating in discussion about the book, write down insights you hear or discover. Writing these notes directly in the text assures you that you will be able to find the exact passage that triggered the ideas. Also, it is less likely that you will lose track of the notes.
11. Don't mark too much. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.
12. Use brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or details you want to return to later.