

10TH GRADE: HONORS WORLD LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

PRE-COURSE READING: 2023-2024

Why Pre-Course Reading? The North Cobb High School English Department knows that pre-course reading helps you expand your vocabulary, spelling, and writing skills, as well as gain new perspectives on life situations. Research is clear: The more reading you do, the more information you gain, and the better your reading skills will become. Reading is also an effective means of preparing for standardized tests such as the SAT, ACT, and AP exams.

What do I read? Please select **one** of the following books to read over the summer.

Book Title and Author	World Literature Connection/Setting
<i>The Book of Aron</i> by Jim Shepard	Poland during World War II
<i>Cry the Beloved Country</i> by Alana Patton	South Africa, mid-1940s
<i>The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet</i> by Jaime Ford	Seattle's Japantown, 1980s and 1940s
<i>Shanghai Girls</i> by Lisa See	From China to America, early- to mid-20 th Century

Important Note for Parents/Guardians: Please research accordingly before your child selects his/her book. You may wish to use resources such as Good Reads Reviews and Common-Sense Media to ensure your and your child's comfort with the material in the chosen book.

What do I do? Read attentively, annotate, and enjoy your book! Once you have learned some new writing skills, you will demonstrate those skills by analyzing your chosen pre-course reading book.

Tips for Annotation: Annotate your book to identify, label, and comment. If you own the book, write in it; if you borrow the book, use sticky notes to identify AND label the following. Labeling saves you from having to re-read every passage as you locate what you need for the writing assessment. Some students prefer to take notes separately.

NOTE: We are *not* grading your annotations. We are grading what you do *with* your annotations. See below for specific advice to help you prepare for the writing assessment.

Setting affects characters, especially the main character/characters. Typically, as the main character enters a new setting, whether a new location or a new time, something happens to that character, usually something related to the main conflict. Keep in mind that moving from one room to another in the same building and that returning to any place constitute setting changes. Flashbacks, a time change, usually show character development or plot development insights, and if something matters to the plot, it also matters to the main character(s).

- Identify main character(s).
- Track significant times when the main character(s) enters a new location or a new time.
- Note what happens to that character and/or the plot in that setting change.
- Note how that character changes or what that character learns in that new setting.
- When you finish the book, determine in what ways the setting in general or setting specific changes affected the plot and the main character(s)