

English 10

Reading Contract

You don't have to burn books to destroy culture. Just get people to stop reading them." Ray Bradbury

"If students are taught to read and write well, they will do fine on mandated reading tests. But if they are only taught to be test-takers, they will never learn to read and write. A terrible price is paid when schools value the development of test-takers more than they value the development of readers." Kelly Gallagher

This class recognizes that many of the practices schools employ to make students better readers actually kill the love of reading. What is worse is that the higher the grade level the higher chances are that students are turned off to reading. This systematic killing has serious consequences for our students and our society. Students who read deeply are able to become active and engaged citizens. Students who read become better writers and critical thinkers. Fostering a love of reading has little to do with passing a standardized test and everything to do with developing students who are prepared for post-secondary education and life.

Because this class values reading, students can expect the following:

- 1) Students need to find a novel (work of fiction) that they **WANT** to read.
 - a. It must be a novel they haven't read.
 - b. It must be a published work.
- 2) Students need to bring their own choice novel with them to **EVERY** class.
- 3) Students can change their novel at any time, but they need to notify Mr. Bigelow by email before they do.
- 4) Students need to be in their assigned seats reading their own choice book **BEFORE** the tardy bell rings.
- 5) Students have the first 15 minutes of every class for silent reading.
- 6) Every class students will note the title of their own choice book and how many pages they read in their journals.
- 7) Students will also be assigned reading from a class novel.
- 8) Students will have reading homework every night Monday-Friday (20-25 minutes).
- 9) Students will be assigned to read approximately ten pages from the assigned novel at home Monday-Friday.
 - a. The assigned pages are outlined below.

- b. There is usually a response to be written in the student's journal in connection with the reading.
- 10) If a student reads the assigned 10 pages in less than 20 minutes, they should read their own choice novel for the remaining time.
- 11) When we are not studying a novel together students need to read for 20 minutes (10 pages) in their own choice novel as homework Monday-Friday.

Grading

- 1) Silent Reading and Class Participation will make up 30% of student's final grade.
 - a. Students will receive 3 points every class period.
 - i. 1 point for bringing their own choice novel as well as the class novel to class. If a student is missing either book they cannot earn this point. (A student may bring a different own choice novel at any time as long as they inform me by email before class begins.)
 - ii. 1 point for being in assigned seat and reading before the tardy bell rings.
 - iii. 1 point for reading for the entire 15 minutes. (If a student is tardy she/he cannot earn this point. If a student is on a cell phone or other device she/he cannot earn this point. If a student is working on anything else she/he cannot earn this point.)
 - b. Students cannot make up points for being tardy, for not bringing their book, or for not reading.
 - c. Students with an excused absence have a week from the absence to make up these points. They need to come to my room and read their own choice novel for 15 minutes. This can be done at lunch or before/after school.
- 2) Assigned Reading, Annotations, and Journals will be scored as assignments. Assignments make up 35% of student's final grade. Because the nature of these readings is time sensitive to what is happening in class there is no late or make up work accepted for missed readings, annotations, or journals.

-See class website for lists of books www.amesbigelow.weebly.com

Return this page to Mr. Bigelow by Tuesday, August 29

Starting and keeping a reading routine is essential for your success and learning this year as well as in your future years as a student. With your parents’/guardians’ help, you need to determine a time and place for you to accomplish your assigned reading each night. Once you’ve determined the time and place for your reading, both student and parent/guardian need to sign in the space provided. It is important that student, parent/guardian, and teacher are all on the same page as to the Reading Plan. It’s important that you stick to this routine and not fall behind. Many class assignments and activities operate under the assumption that you’ve read the previous days’ assigned text. Do the ten pages a night rather than reading every other day or reading 50 pages over the weekend. Keep to the schedule so that you can participate actively in class.

Be sure that when you pick a time for each night (whether it’s the same time each week night or a different time due to other family responsibilities or other obligations), that it is a time that offers minimal distractions. When choosing a location for the reading, do the same. Reading should take place in a location that is free from distractions such as tvs, video games, high family foot traffic. The time and place of your reading work needs to be a place where you can easily focus on reading and nothing else.

If, after a couple weeks, the Reading Plan needs to be adjusted for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to contact his or her teacher and request a new Reading Plan form that includes the changes. This must be signed by the parent/guardian as well.

Below, document the following information about your Reading Plan:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
My reading time for each night:					
Location:					

The name of my first own choice novel is _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____