

English IV Honors

Reading Assignment:

Buy an actual printed copy of the book *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*. Be sure you do not purchase the Study Guide which accompanies the book; you are welcome to read this as well, but it will not meet the requirements of this assignment. Read and annotate the book. As this is a memoir, you may find fewer instances of traditional literary devices (though, there are still many) and more easily annotatable moments involving plot, character, vocabulary, etc.

Annotation link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZXgr7_3Kw4

For annotation clarification, click the previous link for a brief overview. This is another teacher's explanation, but it is fairly spot on. If you follow her directions, you will find yourself with a good set of annotations. YOUR ANNOTATIONS WILL BE GRADED, so, it is crucial that you take time to actually annotate the text as you read. **Annotating is not highlighting**; you may highlight if you choose, but you must make handwritten notes in the margins of every chapter or on stickie notes. Whether you choose sticky notes, sticky tabs or highlights with notes, please adhere to the following distinctions:

Yellow = plot points (major developments, major changes, conflict, exposition, etc.)

Green = literary elements (motif, mood, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, tone)

Pink = literary techniques (irony, symbolism, foil, foreshadowing, allusion, repetition)

Orange = characterization (furthers individual characters or relationships between characters, protagonist, antagonist)

Blue = vocabulary and figurative language (idiom, metaphor, simile, alliteration, pun, personification)

Writing Assignment:

1. You will need to submit a bulleted summary of the story divided into 11 sections (one for each section of the book plus the epilogue). Each section should have many bullet points which sum up that section in your own words. You should also mention how each section ties into the story at large. **KEEP IN MIND** that these summaries will be submitted to turnitin and will be compared against everything on the internet AND any other

submissions from other students that I receive. I would advise you to avoid “collaborating” with peers at all costs. Assignments with more than 3% plagiarism will only be eligible for half credit.

2. In a two-page essay, consider Quershi’s journey to Christ. Compare that to your own journey; you can be honest, as you will not be judged on your beliefs. You may use the first person to thoughtfully and carefully discuss the similarities and differences in your faith journeys. Forget the fact that he began his life in another religion; I guarantee that if you really read the book, you will find yourself relating to the story regardless of where your faith started. REMEMBER: just because you are writing something personal does not mean that you can write casually. This needs to be formal, well thought out, and carefully crafted. In addition, you need to use specific examples from the text to prove that you read and understood the story. A basic rubric follows.

Be sure to use 8th edition MLA formatting for your essay; visit the following link if you are unsure what this entails:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

A digital copy of this essay will need to be submitted to turnitin.com by 11:59 pm on the first day of school. Hard copies of both of your writing assignments are due the first day of school as well. There will be a test over the book the second day of school; your annotations will be due on the second day as well. *If you fail to complete the summer assignment by the first day or you fail to demonstrate your understanding of the text, you will be moved to a regular English IV class.*

As the saying goes, “You never get a second chance to make a first impression.” These assignments will be my first impression of you as a student; they tend to be strong indicators of ability level, work ethic and future intention. By choosing to take an Honors level course, you are choosing to work harder, to think further, to analyze more deeply and to connect more strongly to authors, literature, and the written word in general. Please be sure that your summer work reflects who you really are and what you are truly capable of. No pressure.

Summer Reading Personal Reflection Rubric

Concerns Areas that need work	Criteria Standards for this assignment	Advanced Evidence of exceeding standard
	Criteria 1: Formal, careful writing with very few grammatical, mechanical errors utilizing varied sentences and meaningful organization. Composition lends itself to clarity and understanding. (10 points)	
	Criteria 2: Fully addresses the topic, focusing on comparing and contrasting personal experience with that of Qureshi while avoiding superfluous, off-topic discussion or summary. (20 points)	
	Criteria 3: Demonstrates clear understanding and deep analysis of the book, referencing specific passages and synthesizing details in order to draw conclusions. (20 points)	