

Dear Class of 2011 Students and Parents:

We hope you have had a successful freshman year. The staff of Antioch Community High School believes that reading, during the summer as well as the school year, is one of the keys to academic success. To promote reading, next year's sophomores will read *The Book of Fred* by Abby Bardi. Our English teachers selected this book because it tells an engaging story told by four different narrators. As you read, you will see how an outsider transforms an unhappy family.

Students, the book belongs to you. Please write your name on the book, and as you read, highlight passages that reveal important aspects of the characters or themes of the story. (English II Seminar students should read just the first three sections, pages 1-175.)

While you read, be on the lookout for quotes that you think are important because they shed some light on either a character's motivations, events in the plot, or a major idea you think the book communicates.

Your Assignment: Compile a quote log. Choose two significant quotes from each section of the novel to comment upon. You will need to type the quote (and indicate the page number) and then a brief paragraph in response to the quote. You may choose to explain why this quote is important, make a personal connection to the quote, or comment on the literary devices used: foreshadowing, use of simile or metaphor, vivid description, etc. Below is an example:

"I thought of myself at work, and how I sat at the desk in the reference databases, and no one even knew that I had lain awake the night before, staring into a copy of an old painting, wondering how I ended up like this" (Bardi 84).

I chose this quote because it shows how fragile and mostly sad Alice is. She sees a part of herself in Mary Fred. Like Mary Fred, she's trying to admit to herself how her family's living conditions were not healthy. I wonder if Alice will start to put herself first in her life.

This quote log should demonstrate your skills in both writing and reading comprehension. Please type it according to the usual MLA format used in our English classes.

Sophomore English teachers will start the first day of class with this book, so all students must complete the reading and writing assignments before the start of school and bring them to class the first day. Copies of summer reading assignments will also be posted at Sequoits.com.

We encourage parents to join their children and read along. Thank you for completing this work during the summer. If parents or students have any questions, please contact Mr. Nekritz or Mr. Whitehurst. We hope you have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

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