

Dear Incoming Junior students and their Parents/Guardians:

In order to promote literacy and learning during the relaxing summer months, we, the faculty at Antioch Community High School, ask that each student reads a book assigned by the English Department. Reading is key to all academic success; therefore, the reading of this book will help prepare all students for their junior year in all subjects.

The book selected for incoming English III students is *From Baghdad, With Love* by Lieutenant Colonel Jay Kopelman. The English Department selected this novel because it is a contemporary, non-fiction piece. We believe the students will find this book a captivating and informative read.

The book belongs to the student. Students, please write your name in the front cover. You will be responsible for having read this material when you start English III in the fall.

Complete BOTH of the following assignments.

- **As you read, annotate 10 important passages you feel reveal insights into American core values and beliefs. Be prepared to share these passages during class discussions and activities.**

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: “The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have made some difference that you have lived and lived well.” After you finish reading and annotating the book, type a one to two page response explaining how Emerson’s quote relates to the book. Use 2-3 quotes with proper citations in your response. Remember to use MLA format.**

When writing your response, consider the following questions:

- **What values and beliefs does Kopelman demonstrate both while at war and while trying to rescue Lava?**
- **Why is the relationship that is formed between the soldiers and Lava so strong?**
- **Why are so many people so willing to make such huge sacrifices for the benefit of Lava?**
- **In what ways do the characters embody Emerson’s quote by being useful, honorable, and compassionate?**

The English III teachers will begin discussing this book on the first day of class, so students must complete the reading assignment before the start of school and bring it on the first day of class.

We encourage parents and guardians to read along with their students and engage in discussion. Thank you for completing summer work and advancing your education. If you have any questions, please contact John Whitehurst at jwhitehurst@sequoits.com or visit our school website. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

ACHS English III Teachers