

Dear Class of 2012 Students and Parents:

We hope you 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 *Twisted* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Our English teachers selected this book because it tells an engaging story dealing with the issues of high school, peer pressure, family dynamics, and peer relationships. Readers will find that Anderson skillfully explores identity and power struggles that all young people will recognize.

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.

Assignment:

- While reading:
 - Annotate passages that reveal important aspects of the characters or themes of the story
 - Remember, annotation is not just highlighting a passage. All highlighted passages must include a response in the margin of the novel.
- After reading the novel:
 - Type 10 reading log entries:
 - Each entry needs to include a quote which includes an MLA citation.
 - Selected quotes need to be spread out over the entire novel. Don't just pick 10 quotes from the first half of the book.
 - Number each quote.
 - Responses to the quotes need to be a quality paragraph (at least 5 sentences)
 - Your responses should demonstrate your skills in both writing and reading comprehension.

Below is an example of a reading log:

"The enlightened ones – the wounded sophomores, jaded juniors, and wise seniors – we trudged to the door, a prison gang so beaten down we didn't need ankle shackles" (Anderson 44).

I chose this quote because I like Tyler's description of the classes of students in his high school. I think he calls the sophomores "wounded" because they have survived freshman year, but they had to learn some hard lessons. Jaded juniors might describe the class that expects the worst or has a negative attitude. Juniors might feel tired of high school. The wise seniors probably know how to "work" the system and what classes and teachers to take. I also chose the quote because I liked the metaphor of comparing high school students to a prison gang. I also like the interesting word choice of "shackles" and "trudged."

The sophomore English teachers will start the first day of class with this book, so all students must complete the annotations and reading logs 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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