

Welcome to Freshman Literature and Composition!

This course intends to provide you with an opportunity to develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. In addition to reading a wide variety of literature, you will also participate in analytical, creative, and persuasive writing experiences throughout the course.

Over the summer, we encourage you to read at least one book in order to keep your reading skills sharp and learn about the world. Below, you will find a list of suggested books that we have enjoyed and think would be helpful to ready yourself for next school year. We anticipate having an informal discussion at the beginning of the year.

For your convenience, here is a summary of each suggested summer reading novel (courtesy of amazon.com):

- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. In this true story, author Mitch Albom rediscovered Morrie, his old mentor and friend, in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing Morrie was dying, Mitch visited with Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final class: lessons in how to live.
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences.
- *The Madman's Daughter* by Megan Shepherd. Following accusations that her scientist father gruesomely experimented on animals, sixteen-year-old Juliet watched as her family and her genteel life in London crumbled around her—and only recently has she managed to piece her world back together. But when Juliet learns her father is still alive and working on a remote tropical island, she is determined to find out if the old accusations are true. Accompanied by her father's handsome young assistant, Montgomery, and an enigmatic castaway, Edward, Juliet travels to the island, only to discover the depths of her father's insanity.
- *Jackaby* by William Ritter. Newly arrived in New Fiddleham, New England, 1892, and in need of a job, Abigail Rook meets R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with a keen eye for the extraordinary—including the ability to see supernatural beings. Abigail has a gift for noticing ordinary but important details, which makes her perfect for the position of Jackaby's assistant. On her first day, Abigail finds herself in the midst of a thrilling case: A serial killer is on the loose.

Doctor Who meets Sherlock in a debut novel, the first in a series, brimming with cheeky humor and a dose of the macabre.

As you read, consider internal and external conflicts, the story's theme, and how the protagonist changes throughout the story. We hope you will enjoy your summer reading, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Sincerely,
The 9th Grade English Teacher Team