

English 10 and 10 Honors Sophomore Summer Assignment – *The Catcher in the Rye*

Over summer break, you will read *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. It is one of the most famous works of American literature, and it is the quintessential coming-of-age story of a teenager questioning and rebelling against society while also contemplating his own identity as he enters into adulthood.

As you read: Annotate the text. When we say “annotate” we mean underlining or highlighting key passages on every page AND writing down reasons for your attention to each passage. Your reason for an annotation could be: unfamiliar vocabulary, characterization, conflict, connection to theme, or even just a question about something you find confusing. This is a great way to track your own thinking, address your own confusion, and to engage emotionally with the characters of the story. “Huh?” and “What a jerk!” can be very helpful annotations!

As you annotate, especially look out for passages that connect to the following meaningful topics and concepts (these are not “themes” by themselves, but they will help us build thematic statements later on):

Authenticity (being “real” vs. “phony”)

Loneliness and alienation from others

Conformity versus individuality

Intimacy and sexuality

Hypocrisy and deception

Depression and mental health

Innocence and childhood

Death and grief

Responsibility and maturity

Upon your return: We will discuss this novel during the first week of class, and there will be a test on the reading.

You should also expect a written analysis assessment that will require meaningful attention to your annotations and the topics listed above.

You should also expect an annotations-check in the first week of school.

It is imperative that you complete the reading and annotations before school starts.

If you have any questions, please email mschaefer@stjohnschs.org