



# Harlan High School

## SUMMER READING

On Level English IV 2024-2025

**Welcome to On Level English IV!** This class will focus largely on a reading and writing analysis, which examines the choices authors use to influence their audience and achieve their purpose.

Thus, with an eye toward the college essay that will be written at the beginning of the school year, students enrolled in English IV are expected to choose **either all three** memoir excerpts from the list below or **one** of the novels listed below to read and study over the summer.

Please know that you are strongly encouraged to obtain your own copy of the novel (if you choose the novel route) to more easily annotate and interact with it as you read. You may create a digital Google doc for your annotations while reading an on-line copy of your chosen memoir from the **Harlan Summer Reading List**.

Annotation can be especially helpful when studying a piece. It involves marking aspects of the text that you find important or influential, and making comments for yourself in order to remember *why* you marked what you did. Although your annotations will not be graded, they will help you prepare to perform an in depth analysis over the three memoirs or novel, as it is easier to relocate choices the author uses when you can simply read back over your comments to yourself, rather than re-reading the entire text.

### Reading your chosen book or memoirs from this list will prepare you for:

- identifying key ideas in a text through examining the details the author uses
- analyzing the author's purpose, audience, and message when reading a variety of narrative texts
- analyzing specific rhetorical choices (tools/strategies/techniques) the author uses
- responding to your reading in a variety of ways to include evidence-based discussions and written responses
- experimenting with incorporating an anecdote in informative writing

### Memoir Excerpts and Novels

You will either choose to read all **THREE** of these memoir excerpts **OR** **ONE** of the novels listed below.

#### Memoir Excerpts:

['I Am Malala': Excerpt of the Prologue](#)

[Excerpts from \*I Am Malala\* by Malala Yousafzai](#)

[Read free excerpt of \*A Long Way Gone\* by Ishmael Beah](#)- Read pages 1-5

#### Novel Choices:

1. *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
2. *The Boy Kings of Texas* by Domingo Martinez
3. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
4. *Darius The Great is Not Okay* by Adbi Khorram
5. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
6. *Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay
7. *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart
8. *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi
9. *Internment* by Samira Ahmed
10. *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
11. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
12. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

#### **For further information:**

Please contact Mrs. Ortegon @ [Linda.ortegon@nisd.net](mailto:Linda.ortegon@nisd.net). During the summer, Mrs. Ortegon will usually respond to emails within one week's time.