Introduction: Scope and Purpose

Senior English is concerned with questioning the conventional wisdom, or what we commonly think of as truth. Indeed, as the first semester evolves, we will see that truth is not necessarily an objective measure of reality, but, instead, a subjective measure based on one’s perspective, circumstances, and point of view. In short, for every narrative or vision of reality, there is a counter narrative or revision of reality.

Our time will be spent doing exercises in perspective taking, and we will attempt to understand what our protagonist believes and how the protagonist formed these beliefs. In this, we will try to develop a critical insight into the literature that we will read.

Summer Reading Assignment

Choose one of the books from the list below, and read it over your summer vacation. While you may wish to purchase your own copy of your summer reading text and take notes directly in the book, this is not necessary. You may borrow the book from the BHS library or your local public library, but you must ensure that you take good notes on the text so that you will be able to complete the assignment in the fall.

The assignment in the fall will be to compose a speech about a character in your novel based on given parameters and specifications. You will receive complete, specific directions upon your return to school.

Possible Summer Reading Selections

Choose only one book from the list below, and be prepared to complete the assignment in the fall. See the English 12 Summer Reading list for complete descriptions of these titles.

Coelho, Paulo. *The Alchemist*

Zusak, Marcus. *The Book Thief*

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Breakfast of Champions*

Diaz, Junot. *The Brief and Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao*

Wolfe, Tom. *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*

Angelo, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Ellison, Ralph. *The Invisible Man*

Bernard, Malamud. *The Natural*

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*

Prisig, Robert. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*