

English 11 CP/ English 11 American Literature
Summer Reading Assignment
2017-2018

This summer you will read *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford **and** choose **EITHER** Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* **OR** John Hersey's *Hiroshima*.

All parts of this assignment are due on **Monday, August 28th** in hard copy, at the beginning of class.

The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

1. Collage

Depict the most important ideas presented in the novel in a collage. It should be approximately a half sheet of poster board in size and every square inch of board should be covered. You should consider using multiple mediums (cloth, objects, trinkets/as well as pictures and words from magazines). The title and the author's name must be incorporated into the collage. On the back of the board you will have a typed explanation of your collage choices. This should be approximately 200-250 words in length. Make sure your name and the explanation are glued to the back of the board.

2. Written Response

Choose **ONE** of the following options #s, 1, 2, 3, or 4. Written responses should be approximately 250-500 words (minimum: 1 double-spaced full page not to exceed one and one-half pages). Your name, instructor, course, novel title, and the Option number should be in the upper left hand corner of the page.

(Sample Heading)- double-spaced

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Mrs. Henson
American Literature CP
28 August 2017
The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet Option #

Please note that the writings must make specific references to the work read; generalities will yield a much lower grade.

Option #1: Compare or contrast one of the characters with someone you really know. Use specific examples of appearance, actions, personality, likes/dislikes etc. Support your examples with citations from the novel (page number).

Option #2: How does the portrayal of the school setting in this novel compare to your experiences with school? Consider the teachers, students, and general atmosphere in your response.

Option #3: Which character (in personality) are you most like? Identify one or two of your personality traits and compare them to specific actions or attitudes of the character you have chosen. (Do not merely focus on surface features, such as hobbies or physical appearance.)

Option #4: Which scenes from the novel did you connect with emotionally? What did they make you feel or think about? Based on your emotional response, would you recommend this novel to a friend?

If you read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, do this assignment:

1. Written Response

Construct a **1 ½ - 2-page essay** that compares and contrasts *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* to *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. In your response, you should follow the paragraph outline below.

Paragraph 1: Summarize the plots of **both** novels.

- How are the events similar or different?

Paragraph 2: Compare the historical contexts of both novels.

- How does the history of the Native American Reservations relate to the history of the Japanese internment camps?

Paragraph 3: Compare/contrast Henry with Junior

- Consider personality, actions, thoughts, and/or emotional response

Paragraph 4: Compare/contrast a pair of characters from the list below:

- Keiko/Penelope

- Henry's Mom/Junior's Mom

- Henry's Dad/Junior's Dad

- Mrs. Beatty/Mr. P

Paragraph 5: Compare/contrast the themes of both novels.

If you read *Hiroshima*, do this assignment:

1. Written Response

Choose one of the survivors from *Hiroshima* and compare his/her experience (both during and after the bombing) with the experiences of a modern survivor of a human-orchestrated tragedy. Follow the steps listed below.

Step 1: Choose a modern human-orchestrated tragedy (such as the events of 9/11, the Rwandan Genocide, etc.).

Step 2: Research survivors' narratives from your chosen event. Choose one survivor.

Step 3: Construct a **4-paragraph response** that compares and contrasts the survivor of the modern tragedy with one of the survivors from *Hiroshima*. **Follow the paragraph outline below.**

Paragraph 1: Summarize the experience of your chosen survivor from *Hiroshima*.

Paragraph 2: Summarize the experience of your chosen researched survivor.

Paragraph 3: Analyze the experiences of both survivors, answering the questions

below as they apply to your chosen survivors.

How did the survivors manage to survive?

To what extent were their survivals miraculous?

How, if at all, did the survivors engage with their own spirituality, both during and after the event?

How do the survivors view humanity?

Paragraph 4:

How have these survivors' stories impacted your own reflections about humanity and spirituality?

Step 4: Create a citation, in MLA format, for the source of your information on the modern survivor. This should be typed on a separate page from your written response and stapled to it.