English II Summer Reading 2019

Please read one of the following books this summer:

* Anthem* by Ayn Rand
* We Set the Dark on Fire* by Tehlor Kay Mejia
* Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
* Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

Please read your book and create a one-page visual poster of your book before returning to school. A regular 8.5”x11” piece of paper is fine, although you may choose a larger size if you wish. Your one-page visual poster must include the following elements:

- Your name
- The title and author of your summer reading book
- A brief overview of the plot of your book (summary)
- One or more important quotations from your book (with a brief explanation)
- A list of theme topics that are present in your book
- A rating of your book (0-5 stars) with a brief explanation

You may create your one-page poster however you like! You could create it on paper with colored pencils/paint/markers, if you would like, either from scratch or using this [template](#) (hard copy available on page 3). Or you could create it digitally, using Canva, or example. If you’d like to use Canva, you can create a poster from scratch, or follow this [link](#) to use a Canva template (http://bit.ly/2WplTyS). You could even create a video, if you’d like. As long as the elements listed above are included in your creation, you’re good! You will be assessed using the rubric below, for a formative assessment grade. See a sample one-page poster on the next page.

**READING:** 1. Reading: Comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate a wide range and level of complex literary and informational texts.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.2**
Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

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<tr>
<th>1 Beginning</th>
<th>2 Approaching</th>
<th>3 Proficient</th>
<th>4 Distinguished</th>
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<td>I can summarize the plot and list main characters from my chosen summer reading book.</td>
<td>I can summarize the plot, list main elements (including characters, quotations, and theme topics), and evaluate the overall effectiveness of my chosen summer reading book; I can demonstrate the above by creating a one-page visual representation of my chosen book.</td>
<td>I can summarize plot, analyze main elements (including characters, important quotations, and theme topics) and thoughtfully evaluate the overall effectiveness of my summer reading book; I can demonstrate this by creating a one-page visual representation of my chosen book.</td>
<td>In addition to the requirements of proficient, I can analyze an overall theme or message from my chosen novel, and/or I can make a connection to a current or historical event, and/or I can create an exceptionally creative or innovative poster/visual representation.</td>
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the perks of being a wallflower
by Stephen Chbosky

In a series of letters to an unknown recipient, Charlie, a deep-thinking and introverted young man with a traumatic past, tells the story of his freshman year of high school. He meets new friends, falls in love, grapples with mental health, experiments with drugs and alcohol, and learns what it means to really "live." This coming-of-age novel is filled with references to music and literature, and it provides an in-depth look into the heartbreaks and triumphs of growing up.

main characters

Charlie: Charlie is a 15-year-old "wallflower." He prefers to observe life from the fringes, instead of directly experiencing the social and emotional highs and lows of adolescent life.

Sam: Sam is a senior in high school. Charlie sees her as a true friend and as unconventionally beautiful. Sam enjoys music and performing in the Rocky Horror Picture Show. She dates someone who doesn't value her highly enough.

Patrick: Patrick is a senior in high school. He is proudly gay, and he is in a secret relationship with the closeted star of the football team. Patrick turns to promiscuous sex and alcohol when he experiences hardship. He is a true friend to Charlie.

"YOU EVER THINK, CHARLIE, THAT OUR GROUP IS THE SAME AS ANY OTHER GROUP LIKE THE FOOTBALL TEAM? AND THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS WHAT WE WEAR AND WHY WE WEAR IT?"

This quotation shows that, during adolescence, there is a certain unity in that everyone is going through many of the same changes and experiences. It really doesn't matter which "tribe" a person belongs to, be it the football team or the drama program, etc. We're all just people, trying to get through the tough times and enjoy the triumphs of life.

theme topics

trauma, self-esteem, toxic masculinity
friendship, relationships, generosity
beauty, introversion, self-acceptance

rating and review ★★★★★

I give this novel 4/5 stars. Charlie's sensitive voice and perspective are both really relatable to a teenage audience. He experiences real issues that impact real teenagers, like sexuality, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, social anxiety, mental illness, and more. I thought this novel was a real page-turner, since I became really invested in the characters, and I loved the big revelation at the end. I love that the author frequently alludes to music, movies, and literature throughout the novel, since all of those things are so important during the teenage years--especially music. Even though this novel is mostly relatable, it can be somewhat agonizing to read because of all of the issues impacting the characters. There are a lot of "triggers" in this book, which may make it difficult for some readers. Also, some of the issues are not as relevant now, in 2019, as they were in the late 90s. For example, homosexuality is much more accepted in society today. All in all, I enjoyed this book, and I would recommend it to all adolescents and parents of adolescents, as long as they understand the trigger warnings associated with this book.

Lauren Sullivan Justice
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<tr>
<td>Brief Summary:</td>
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