

## Calera High School Summer Reading 2021-2022

### 10th Grade

Tenth grade English has a focus of Early American literature. Within this course, students will explore four overarching themes. Each of the suggested summer reading novels deals with one or more of those themes. Please look at your summer reading novel choices and make the appropriate selections for your interest, motivation, and ability to work independently.

The dialectical journal assignment(s) are due the second Monday of the 2021-2022 school year.

#### Summer Reading Expectations:

1. Choose a theme that interests you the most.
2. Read one of the books listed in the row for that theme.
3. Complete a dialectical journal with at least **15 entries** for that novel.
4. In the month of August, be prepared for an assessment (test, project, essay, etc.) involving the book you choose.

Honors/Pre-AP must **also** read *True Grit* by Charles Portis and complete a dialectical journal with 15 entries for the novel.

Theme	Novel
What freedoms do people value? How do people pursue their freedoms? Why did these people believe the pursuit of freedom was necessary?	<u>I am not your Perfect Mexican Daughter</u> : Erika L. Sanchez <u>The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian</u> : Sherman Alexie <u>Little Brother</u> : Cory Doctorow
What is justice? Is justice based on society's perceptions of individuals? Who has the right to judge	<u>American Born Chinese</u> : Gene Luen Yang <u>The Hate U Give</u> : Angie Thomas <u>The Serpent King</u> : Jeff Zentner
What is the relationship between morality, idealism, and power? Is morality based on a universal understanding, or is it based on the expectations of a culture?	<u>The Killer Angels</u> : Michael Shaara <u>One of Us Is Lying</u> : Karen M. McManus <u>Nyxia</u> : Scott Reintgen
How does society influence our self-perception? What are the rewards/consequences for differing from societal norms? What is the value of an individual?	<u>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</u> : Stephen Chbosky <u>Hope and Other Punchlines</u> : Julie Buxbaum <u>If I'm Being Honest</u> : Emily Wibberley & Austin Siegemund-Broka

\*Some novels deal with mature themes and contain adult language, sexual content, and/or drug use/references. Please choose a book with which you and your parents feel comfortable. You can seek guidance at [Common Sense Media](#) or the Amazon links given in the sneak peek pages.

### Dialectical Journal Assignment

**PROCEDURE:**

1. As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the chart (ALWAYS include page numbers). Do this at least 15 times.
2. In the right column, write your response to the text. Label your responses using the following codes:
  - (Q) Question – ask about something in the passage that is unclear
  - (C) Connect – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
  - (P) Predict – anticipate what will occur based on what’s in the passage
  - (CL) Clarify – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
  - (R) Reflect – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story/author of the article. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
  - (E) Evaluate - make a judgment about what the author is trying to say
  - (I) Illustrate - create a reflective drawing or sketch that relates to the text

**Make sure to use a variety of the codes. Using the same codes for most or all of your entries will result in a lower score.**

Example:

Passages from the text	Pg#	Re
1. "The yellow marks in my college textbooks...did not help me very much."	82	(C) I can relate since I often used to highlight what I thought was important and then end up with most of the page highlighted.
2. "Annotations do make me read a lot slower and I wish I didn't have to do them. It is so much harder to fake read if you have to annotate like we have to do now. So now I actually read, because it's too hard to fake annotate"	87	(C) It is harder to fake annotate--it almost takes more time. (R) People are prone to find the easy way to do something. Since there's really no easy way to annotate--fake or real--it makes sense to really read and think about the texts. (Q) Is it really harder to fake read if you have to annotate? Or does it just take longer?

### **I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter - Erika L. Sanchez**

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* meets *Jane the Virgin* in this poignant but often laugh-out-loud funny contemporary YA about losing a sister and finding yourself amid the pressures, expectations, and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican American home. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out *every possible way* Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

[Amazon - I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#)

### **The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian - Sherman Alexie**

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, with a foreword from Jaqueline Woodson. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

[Amazon - The Absolutely True Story of A Part-Time Indian](#)

### **Little Brother - Cory Doctorow**

Marcus, a.k.a "w1n5t0n," is only seventeen years old, but he figures he already knows how the system works—and how to work the system. Smart, fast, and wise to the ways of the networked world, he has no trouble outwitting his high school's intrusive but clumsy surveillance systems. But his whole world changes when he and his friends find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco. In the wrong place at the wrong time, Marcus and his crew are apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security and whisked away to a secret prison where they're mercilessly interrogated for days. When the DHS finally releases them, Marcus discovers that his city has become a police state where every citizen is treated like a potential terrorist. He knows that no one will believe his story, which leaves him only one option: to take down the DHS himself.

[Amazon - Little Brother](#)

### **American Born Chinese - Gene Yang**

A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and

stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.

[Amazon - American Born Chinese](#)

### **The Hate U Give - Angie Thomas**

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

[Amazon - The Hate U Give](#)

### **The Serpent King - Jeff Zentner**

Dillard Early, Jr., Travis Bohannon and Lydia Blankenship are three friends from different walks of life who have one thing in common: none of them seem to fit the mold in rural Tennessee's Forrestville High. Dill has always been branded as an outsider due to his family heritage as snake handlers and poison drinkers, an essential part of their Pentecostal faith. But after his father is sent to prison for sexual abuse of a young parishioner, Dill and his mother become real pariahs. His only two friends are Travis, a gentle giant who works at his family's lumberyard and is obsessed with a Game of Thrones-like fantasy series (much to his alcoholic father's chagrin); and Lydia, who runs a popular fashion blog that's part Tavi Gevinson and part Angela Chase, and is actively plotting her escape from Redneckville, Tennessee. As the three friends begin their senior year, it becomes clear that they won't all be getting to start a promising new life after graduation. How they deal with their diverging paths could cause the end of their friendship. Until a shattering act of random violence forces Dill to wrestle with his dark legacy and find a way into the light of a future worth living.

[Amazon - The Serpent King](#)

### **The Killer Angels - Michael Shaara**

In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history, two armies fought for two conflicting dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises. There was love. And far more than men fell on those Pennsylvania fields. Bright futures, untested innocence, and pristine beauty were also the casualties of war. Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is unique, sweeping, unforgettable—the dramatic story of the battleground for America's destiny.

[Amazon - The Killer Angels](#)

### **One of Us Is Lying - Karen M. McManus**

On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the

perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose? Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them.

[Amazon - One of Us Is Lying](#)

### **Nyxia - Scott Reintgen**

Emmett Atwater isn't just leaving Detroit; he's leaving Earth. Why the Babel Corporation recruited him is a mystery, but the number of zeroes on their contract has him boarding their lightship and hoping to return to Earth with enough money to take care of his family. Forever. Before long, Emmett discovers that he is one of ten recruits, all of whom have troubled pasts and are a long way from home. Now each recruit must earn the right to travel down to the planet of Eden—a planet that Babel has kept hidden—where they will mine a substance called Nyxia that has quietly become the most valuable material in the universe. But Babel's ship is full of secrets. And Emmett will face the ultimate choice: win the fortune at any cost, or find a way to fight that won't forever compromise what it means to be human.

[Amazon - Nyxia](#)

### **The Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky**

Read the cult-favorite coming of age story that takes a sometimes heartbreaking, often hysterical, and always honest look at high school in all its glory. The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, *Perks* follows observant "wallflower" Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

[Amazon - The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#)

### **Hope and Other Punchlines - Julie Buxbaum**

Abbi Hope Goldstein is like every other teenager, with a few smallish exceptions: her famous alter ego, Baby Hope, is the subject of internet memes, she has asthma, and sometimes people spontaneously burst into tears when they recognize her. Abbi has lived almost her entire life in the shadow of the terrorist attacks of September 11. On that fateful day, she was captured in what became an iconic photograph: in the picture, Abbi (aka "Baby Hope") wears a birthday crown and grasps a red balloon; just behind her, the South Tower of the World Trade Center is collapsing. Now, fifteen years later, Abbi is desperate for anonymity and decides to spend the summer before her seventeenth birthday incognito as a counselor at Knights Day Camp two towns away. She's psyched for eight weeks in the company of four-year-olds, none of whom have ever heard of Baby Hope. Too bad Noah Stern, whose own world was irrevocably shattered on that terrible day, has a similar summer plan. Noah believes his meeting Baby Hope is fate. Abbi is sure it's a disaster. Soon, though, the two team up to ask difficult questions about the history behind the Baby Hope photo. But is either of them ready to hear the answers?

[Amazon - Hope and Other Punchlines](#)

### **If I'm Being Honest - Emily Wibberley & Austin Siegemund-Broka**

Cameron Bright is the queen bee at her private L.A. high school--she's beautiful, talented, and notorious for her brutal honesty. But when she slips up in front of her crush, Andrew, any affection he may have had

for her quickly fades. To win him over, Cameron resolves to "tame" herself, much like Shakespeare's infamous shrew, Katherine. If she makes amends with everyone she's ever wronged, Andrew will have to take notice. Thus, Cameron begins her apology tour with Brendan, the guy whose social life she single-handedly destroyed. At first, Brendan isn't so quick to forgive, but slowly he warms to her when they connect over a computer game he's developing. To Cameron's amazement, she actually enjoys hanging out with Brendan; he appreciates her honesty in a way Andrew never did, and she's left wondering: maybe you shouldn't have to compromise who you are for the kind of love you deserve.

[Amazon - If I'm Being Honest](#)