

## Summer Reading for students entering English 9

Throughout the year, you will be introduced to authors with diverse beliefs, perspectives, and backgrounds. Each writes for their own purpose, yet in all cases their works provide readers with a wider view of the world. Through their stories you will recognize our inherent similarities and differences, and hopefully emerge convinced we can relate to life experiences and feelings that we have not personally undergone. Your summer reading assignment was designed with these ideas in mind.

In the second half of your summer vacation, read Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* (2007). Then, compose a written essay which reflects on the following question:

**How can our personal experiences help broaden our perspective and better prepare us for the challenges we will face in life?**

In your writing you should compare and contrast the ways you, and any character in the novel, deal with problems that you encounter. What characteristics, values, and beliefs do you share with this character? What do these similarities reveal about you both?

This assignment will provide your teachers with a sample of your writing and help them identify those skills on which they can work with you in order to ensure that your first year is a successful one.

If your essay is submitted on the first day of class, you have the opportunity to earn up to four points of extra credit on your first marking period grade. For example, if you earned a 3 on this paper and an 87 for the first marking period, your first marking period grade would be a 90.

Elements of writing that your teacher will be looking for in this essay include:

### Purpose

In your first paragraph interest the reader and prepare them for the ideas you will examine in your writing. Begin with a strong thesis or claim.

### Development & Support

Begin each body paragraph with a topic sentence that identifies its focus. Use supporting evidence from the book and your own experience to back up your ideas. Help the reader move from one idea to another by way of transitions.

### Clarity of Expression

Choose the right word for your purpose and the right order of words to clearly communicate your ideas. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are important, so be sure to proofread your

writing before you consider it complete.

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Monico at [tmonico@hvrhs.org](mailto:tmonico@hvrhs.org) or Mr. Osora at [dosora@hvrhs.org](mailto:dosora@hvrhs.org)

We look forward to meeting you in August!