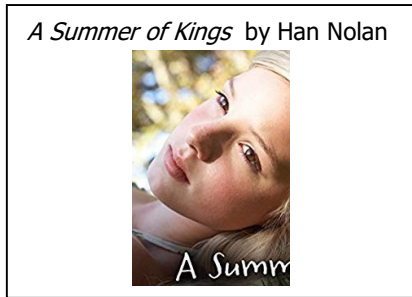


May 2020

Dear Incoming Freshman,

The English Department welcomes you to Assumption! We believe that reading over the summer is an effective way to maintain your reading and thinking skills so that you are well prepared for the upcoming school year. In addition, we hope that our summer reading program fosters a desire to read, develops your reading comprehension and vocabulary, and promotes intellectual growth through exposure to other cultures and perspectives.

We have selected the following book for next year's freshmen to read before the beginning of school in August:



***A Summer of Kings* by Han Nolan**

It's 1963 and fourteen-year-old Esther Young is looking for excitement. Cursed with a lack of talent in a family filled with artistic types, Esther vows to get some attention by initiating a summer romance with a black teen accused of murdering a white man in Alabama.

King-Roy Johnson shows up on Esther's doorstep that summer, an angry young man who feels betrayed by the nonviolent teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. Sent north by his mother to escape a lynch mob, he meets a follower of Malcolm X's who uses radical teachings about black revolution to fuel King-Roy's anger and frustration. But with each other's help, both Esther and King-Roy learn the true nature of integrity

and find the power to stand up for what is right and true.

National Book Award-winning author Han Nolan brings readers a bold new voice--by turns funny and poignant, innocent and worldly--in this powerful coming-of-age story set during the turbulent struggle for civil rights.- Amazon.com

You will need to have your own copy of the book so that you may fully participate in class discussions. When you come to school in the fall, your teacher will incorporate your summer reading novel into your freshman class through a **reading quiz/test, class discussion, and a creative response**. We encourage you to read the book near the end of the summer so it is fresh in your memory.

Active Reading Helpful Tips:

All students are encouraged to take notes on the book. Taking notes not only will help you interact more closely with the text, but it will allow you to remember the novel when we discuss it in August. **It will be helpful if you have some notes to look back on to help you prepare.**

Your notes could include the following:

1. Chapter summaries: On the last page of each chapter, write a 2-3 sentence summary of the main plot events for that chapter.

2. Character notes: *As you read each chapter,* you might underline/highlight any descriptions or details that provide information about characters to help you remember important details about them.

3. Questions: *As you read,* write any questions you have in the margins.

IF YOU HAVE A DIGITAL COPY OF THE BOOK, write down chapter summaries, character notes, and questions on a separate sheet of paper, so you have information to look back on when we are in school.

We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

The Freshman English Teachers