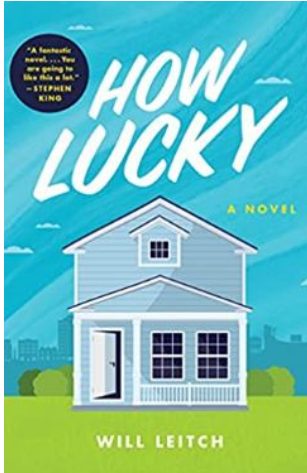


May 2023

Dear rising Advanced Sophomore,

Because summer reading is an effective way to maintain your reading and thinking skills, you can keep your skills sharp with the aid of a great summer reading book. The assigned book for this level is *How Lucky* by Will Leitch.

To give you a little preview, here's a description from goodreads.com:



(It's) the story of a fiercely resilient young man grappling with a physical disability, and his efforts to solve a mystery unfolding right outside his door.

Daniel leads a rich life in the university town of Athens, Georgia. He's got a couple close friends, a steady paycheck working for a regional airline, and of course, for a few glorious days each fall, college football tailgates. He considers himself to be a mostly lucky guy—despite the fact that he's suffered from a debilitating disease since he was a small child, one that has left him unable to speak or to move without a wheelchair.

Largely confined to his home, Daniel spends the hours he's not online communicating with irate air travelers observing his neighborhood from his front porch. One young woman passes by so frequently that spotting her out the window has almost become part of his daily routine. Until the day he's almost sure he sees her being kidnapped.

Active reading will help you to stay connected as you read and will be a useful resource as you go back to the text to study. **Annotating** the text is a valuable tool in being an active reader.

- **Underline** or **highlight** key lines and passages as you read. What stands out to you? This will help you with memory and finding important passages later.
- **Make notes in the margin** of important points, questions, and observations and connections.
- **Write a 3-5 sentence summary** at the end of each chapter to recap the important plot points. It can be a bullet-point list.

What should be the focus of your annotating? Here are some **topics** to be on the lookout for:

- the **impact of SMA (spinal muscular atrophy)** on Daniel's daily life and the ways he tries to live a normal life despite the limitations of his disease
- the **importance of technology** in the story – both for Daniel's life with SMA and for crime-solving
- the events and steps in Daniel's efforts to **find the kidnapper and solve the crime**
- the **culture of a college town** during football season
- the **relationships in Daniel's life** – his mom, Travis, Marjani
- the **voice of the narrator (Daniel)** – how his personality comes through in the way he expresses his thoughts and tells the story

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There will be a formal assessment of this novel through a traditional test as well as class activities.
Be prepared with your annotated book on the first day of class.

We look forward to meeting you in August.

Sincerely,
Diane Darst and Jody Schaefer
English II Advanced teachers

SPECIAL NOTE: If you decide to make a schedule change over the summer that results in a change in academic level for English, you will be required to read the book(s) assigned for that level. You will need to find the correct summer reading assignment on the school website and complete those requirements by the beginning of the school year.