

APPROACHES TO ENGLISH
Mrs. Morin

Welcome to Approaches to English! This year we will explore the question of why stories matter. To begin, you will read two books this summer and complete the assignments:

1. *Bluefish* by Pat Schmatz
2. Free choice book

Assignment #1: *Bluefish* project

After reading the book, **choose one** of the following:

1. Draw a character web depicting the relationships between various characters in the novel. Write each of the character's names on a large sheet of paper or poster board, leaving as much space around them as possible. Around each name write:

- a description of the character (age, appearance, family background, job, skills, interests, etc.)
- adjectives to describe his/her personality
- quotes from the book which give insight into his/her character (Don't forget quotation marks and page numbers.)

Draw lines to connect each of the characters who have a relationship in the book, and along these lines write a brief description of the relationship.

OR

(continue on next page)

2. Imagine that you have to come up with an alternate title for the book. Choose a title that conveys your understanding of the book's themes, characters, or mood. Then design a new book jacket featuring this title. Think particularly about how you can use visual techniques such as color, font, framing, composition, and symbols to emphasize your key ideas.

You will present your project during the first week of school. You will be graded on your creativity, accurate representation of the text, and presentation. 50 points. See the rubric on the next page.

Assignment #2: Free choice book

Your second assignment is to **read any book of your choice**. The requirements are loose, but the book must be a full-length novel, play, non-fiction book, or poetry/short story compilation. You should choose a book you haven't read before.

If you'd like some ideas, here are a couple book lists with recommendations for 9th graders (I did not compile these lists, so you should check the books' appropriateness for you as a reader before deciding). You do not have to choose a book from these lists.

50 Must-Read Books for Ninth Graders:

<https://www.boredteachers.com/books/50-must-read-books-for-ninth-graders>

Classic Books for a 9th Grade Reading List:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/9th-grade-reading-list-4160554>

**Note that we will read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Romeo and Juliet* together in class, so do not choose either of those.

After finishing your book, you will prepare a **book talk** which you will present during the first week of school. Additional information about book talk requirements will be provided via Google Classroom or email. Please keep an eye out for that.

Here is a link to a **sample book talk** that I recorded:

<https://youtu.be/F7c9fEtDtBQ>

AP SEMINAR

Mrs. Morin

Welcome to AP Seminar, a course focused on crafting an argument and developing an original research perspective. Thus, we begin by exploring what it means to be curious, ask questions, seek answers, and make connections. I am looking forward to our work together!

Assignment #1: Read *Curious*

- A. Please obtain and read ***Curious: The Desire to Know and Why Your Future Depends on It***, by Ian Leslie (ISBN: 978-0-465-097623).
- B. As you read, please keep a “curiosity journal” of *at least* 10 entries, each between 120-150 words. These entries can consist of ideas that come to mind as you read, questions that arise, connections that you make to the text, or any interesting musings that the book sparks for you, even if they are related to outside texts or other areas of interest. The guidelines are loose, but in the spirit of the book your entries should be thoughtful, genuine, and reflect your thought process as you read. Include direct quotes and page numbers as appropriate. Please use MLA format. You will hand this in on the first day of school (digital or hand-written is fine). Visit the Purdue Online Writing Lab’s [MLA style guide](#) if needed.

Assignment #2: Free choice

- A. Your second assignment is to read **any book of your choice**. Again, the requirements are loose, but the book must be a full-length novel, play, non-fiction book, or poetry/short story compilation.

- B. After finishing your book, you will prepare a book talk which you will present during the first week of school. Additional information about book talk requirements will be provided via Google Classroom or email. Please keep an eye out for that.