



Summer Reading List for Rising "4èmes" 2016-17

Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the Lycée requires students to purchase their own copies of texts studied in English class.

By having their own text in class, students will learn how to annotate their books, mark important passages, and practice using MLA citation.

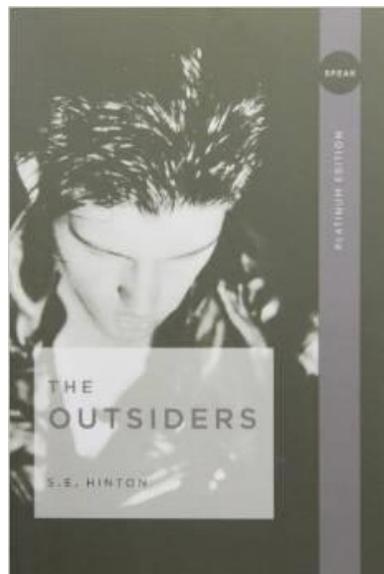
In order to begin this process, students must also come to class with a set of thin, colored Post-it notes. They will use these to mark recurring themes and motifs, helping them to understand texts in more depth.



Students need to purchase the following texts for study over the summer. Please note the edition selected – ISBN numbers; all are available for purchase on [BookSmith](#), [Green Apple Books](#), [Books Inc](#) and [Amazon](#).

You **MUST** complete your reading of both books as well as the assignments before school starts.

To help guide your reading, here are previews of the writing assignments you can expect to see in September:



[The Outsiders](#) S.E.Hinton

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. And when it comes to the Socs—a vicious gang of rich kids who enjoy beating up on "greasers" like him and his friends—he knows that he can count on them for trouble. But one night someone takes things too far, and Ponyboy's world is turned upside down...

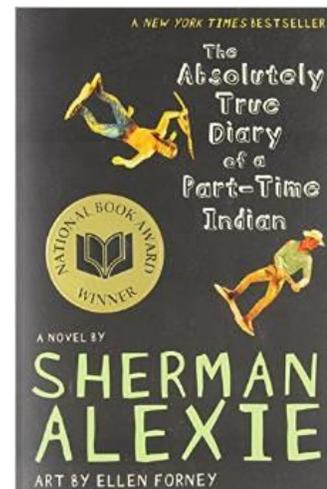
ISBN-13: 978-0142407332

[The Absolutely True Diary 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. 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.

ISBN-13: 978-0316013697





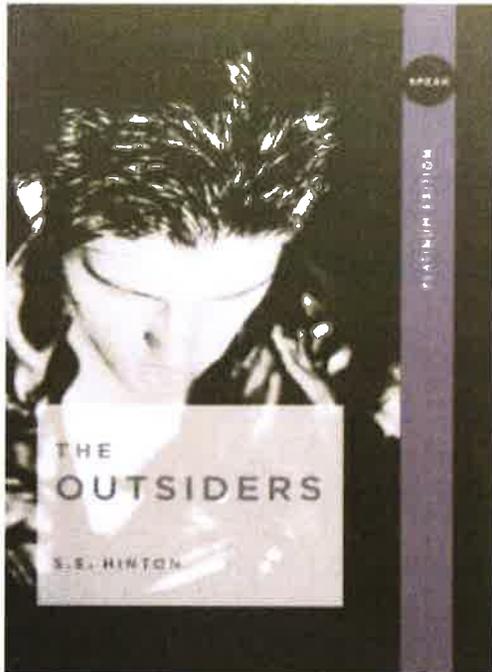
LYCÉE FRANÇAIS
DE SAN FRANCISCO

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming 8th (4^{ème}) Graders

Dear Parents and Students:

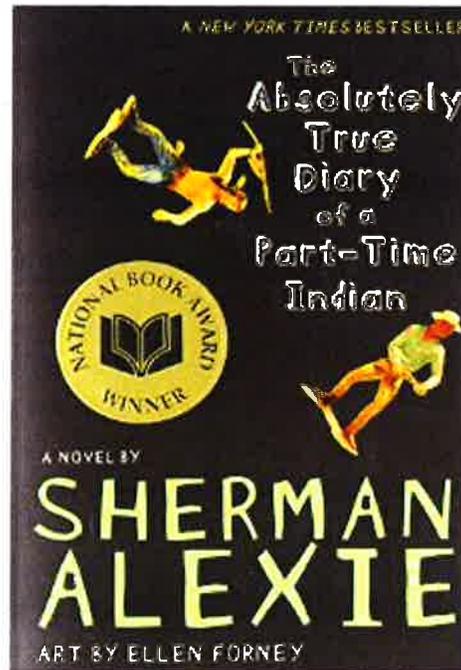
By the time school starts again in the fall, all new 8th graders must have completed two novels for their summer reading. Both novels are available for purchase on Amazon.com. Students will need to bring their copies of the book to class on the first day back to school. **Kindle editions are not acceptable for this project.**

1. *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton
2. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie



\$7.42 on Amazon

ISBN-13: 978-0142407332



\$9.45 on Amazon

ISBN-13: 978-0316013697

OVER

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Before reading either novel, complete the following steps:

1. Read "The Hero's Journey" on the subsequent pages
2. Familiarize yourself with the three stages and eight steps of the journey process.
3. Familiarize yourself with the structure and questions in the Plot Log, because the 8 steps of the hero's journey are subdivided into 14 smaller processes.

As you read both of your novels

1. Take notes on **BOTH** of the PLOT LOGs attached. You must fill out one Plot Log for *The Outsiders*, and one Plot Log for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
2. For each novel, focus on any character you feel is the hero – often there may be more than one – but do focus on just **ONE** character in each book.
3. For each of the 14 steps on both Plot Logs, you must
 - A. provide an explanation of **HOW** the character goes through this step, and
 - B. provide a page number and the first sentence of a quote that **GIVES EVIDENCE** of the character experiencing this step of the Hero's Journey. I suggest that you also mark the page with a Post-It note on which you write the Plot Log step number. This will make finding these quotes and examples much easier for you when we prepare to write our back to school essay.
4. Both of your Plot Logs will be due during the first week of classes in the fall, **and they will be graded** – they are your first grade in 8th Grade (4^{ème}) English. Sometime during the first two weeks of school, you will be writing an essay – your second grade in English.

The first week back at school, bring the two completed PLOT LOGs and your two novels with Post-it notes attached.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- If you are worried that you may lose these Plot Logs, make sure to make copies of them **before** you leave for summer vacation. The eighth grade teachers **WILL NOT** be able to send you copies via email.
- But if you do lose your Plot Logs, go to the school website,
 - Click on ACADEMICS at the top of the page
 - Click on SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS AND READING LISTS
 - Click on INCOMING 8th
 - Print

The Hero's Journey

The Great Adventure

In mythology, heroes take great journeys: to slay Medusa, to kill the minotaur, to find the golden fleece, to rescue the sun. But **The Hero's Journey** (or Quest) isn't just a pattern from myth. It's the pattern of life, growth and experience—for all of us. We see it reflected everywhere, from a simple television comedy to the great works of classical literature.

Parallels the Rite of Passage

The Journey has the same three stages as the *Rite of Passage*. First the initiate faces *separation* from his own, familiar world. Once separated, he undergoes *initiation and transformation*, where the old ways of thinking and acting are altered or destroyed, opening the way to a new level of awareness, skill and freedom. After successfully meeting the challenges of the initiation, the initiate takes the journey's final step, the *return* to his world. When he does, he will find that he is a more confident, perceptive, and capable person.

A map to experience

Why study The Hero's Journey? Why learn a pattern that dates back to before recorded history? The answer is simple: we should study it because it's the pattern of human experience, of our experience, and we will live it for the rest of our lives.

In a sense, every challenge or change we face in life is a Journey: every "falling in" or "falling out," every birth or death, every move to a new town or school—every situation which confronts us with something new. Some journeys are longer and more difficult than others, but they are all journeys we must face throughout life.

As with any process of change, journeys can be confusing and painful, but every challenge brings opportunities for discovery and growth. The struggle helps us develop confidence, perspective and

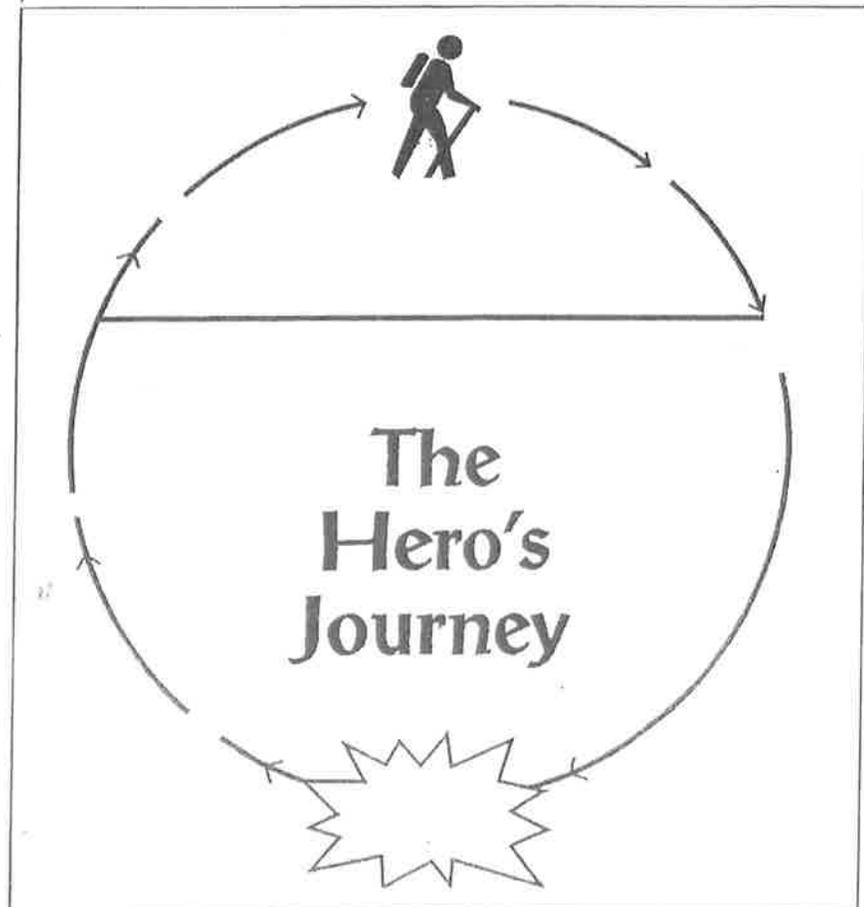
understanding. It is a process of self-discovery and self-integration, of maintaining balance and harmony in our lives.

Understanding the Journey pattern can help you understand the literature you read, the movies you see, and the experiences which shape your life. By recognizing the Journey's stages and how they function, you will develop a sense of the flow of your own experience and be better able to make decisions and solve problems. More importantly, you will begin to recognize your own points of passage and respect the significance they have for you.

Eight-step transformation

We usually divide the Journey into eight steps, but you must remember that *the journey is an individual process of growth and transformation*. The sequence

The essence of the journey is the same in every life, whether it is lived in the Stone Age or the 20th century, in the jungles of Africa or the barrios of Los Angeles. The pattern is constant; only the scenery changes.



and duration of the experiences will vary from one person to another. Here are the basic elements in The Hero's Journey:

Separation (from the known)

- The Call
- The Threshold (with guardians, helpers, and mentor)

Initiation and Transformation

- The Challenges
- The Abyss
- The Transformation
- The Revelation
- The Atonement

The Return (to the known world)

- The Return (with a Gift)

It's important to remember that the journey is a process of separation, transformation, and return. It is a process where each stage must be completed successfully if the initiate is to become a hero. To turn back would mean that the initiate is rejecting her own need to grow. Unless the initiate sets out again, he may be locking himself into unending adolescence and giving up the benefits, freedom and fulfillment of adulthood.

The Separation

The Call

The *Call* invites the initiate into the adventure, offers her the opportunity to face the unknown and gain something of physical or spiritual value. The initiate may choose willingly to undertake the

quest, or she may be dragged into it unwillingly.

In general, the Call comes as a realization of an imbalance or injustice in her life. The Call can take many forms:

- the initiate has had *something taken* from her, her family, or her society. Her quest is to reclaim it.
- the initiate *senses that there is something lacking* in her life, and she must find what is missing.
- the initiate wants to *save or restore honor* — her own, her family's, or her country's.
- the initiate realizes that *something is not permitted to members of her society*, and she goes out to win these rights for her people.

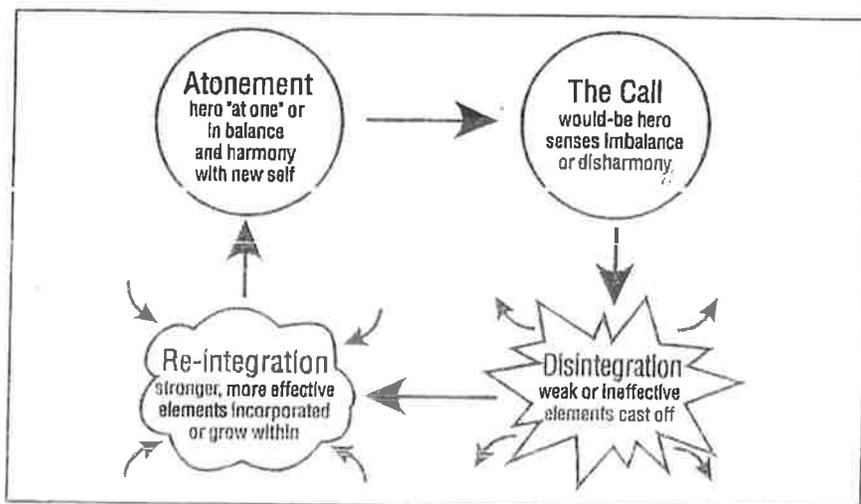
The Threshold

Once called to the adventure, the initiate must pass over the *Threshold*. The Threshold is the "jumping off point" for the adventure. It is the interface between the known and the unknown. In the known world, the initiate feels secure because she knows the landscape and the rules. Once past the threshold, however, the initiate enters the unknown, a different world full of dangers and challenges.

Often at the threshold, the initiate may encounter people, beings, or situations which block her passage into the journey. These "*threshold guardians*" have two functions. They protect us by keeping us from taking journeys before we are ready. However, once we are ready to meet the challenge, they step aside and point the way. More importantly, to pass the guardian is to make a commitment, to say: "I'm ready. I can do this."

Early in our lives, our parents function as our threshold guardians. They try to keep us from doing things which would cause us harm. As we get older, our parents' job becomes more difficult. They must both protect and push, measuring our capabilities against the challenges we want to face.

The Journey is like being taken apart and reassembled. During the process, ineffective parts of our character are discarded, and stronger, more capable elements emerge.



The Disney film *The Lion King* offers another example of a threshold guardian: the king's advisor, Zazu. Zazu seems to be a busy-body, but he is actually trying to protect the over-eager Simba from taking on challenges he is not ready to assume.

Also at the threshold (and very often later during the journey), the initiate will encounter a **helper** (or helpers). Helpers provide assistance or direction. Often the help comes in the form of a divine gift, such as a talisman, which will help her through the ordeal ahead.

The most important of these helpers is the **mentor** or **guide**. The mentor keeps the initiate focused on her goal and gives her stability, a psychological foundation for when the danger is greatest.

Helpers and guides may appear throughout the journey. Fortunately, they tend to appear at the most opportune moments, just when the initiate is about to be killed, for example. We call this fortunate timing "synchronicity."

The Initiation

The Challenges

Once past the Threshold, the initiate begins the journey into the unknown. The voyage can be outward into a physical unknown or inward to a psychological unknown. Whichever direction the voyage takes, as the initiate goes deeper into the unknown, he puts himself more and more at risk, emotionally and physically.

On his quest, the initiate faces a series of *challenges or temptations*. The early challenges are relatively easy. By meeting them successfully, he builds maturity, skill and confidence. As his journey progresses, the challenges become more and more difficult, testing him to the utmost, forcing him to change and grow. Thus begins the process of transformation.

The journey's challenges always seem to strike the initiate's greatest weakness: his poorest skill, his shakiest knowledge, his most vulnerable emotions. Challenges always reflect the initiate's needs and

fears, for it is only by directly facing these weaknesses that they can be overcome. If they can't be overcome, the initiate can't go on: the adventure ends and the initiate must turn back.

Into the Abyss

When he reaches the *Abyss*, the initiate faces the greatest challenge of the journey. The challenge is so great at this point that our initiate must surrender himself completely to the quest, lose himself in the adventure and become one with it. In the *Abyss* he must overcome his greatest fears, and he must face them alone. Here is where he must "slay the dragon," which often takes the shape of something he dreads or needs to resolve.

There is always the possibility that the initiate is not ready or has a flaw in his character, and the challenge beats him. Or perhaps he can't surrender himself to it and must retreat. In any case, unless he sets off to try again, life becomes a shadow of what it should be, and he will become dissatisfied and bitter.

Transformation and Revelation

As the initiate conquers the *Abyss* and overcomes his fears, his transformation becomes complete. Often the final step in the process is a moment of death and rebirth: *a part of the initiate dies so that a new part can be born*. Fear must die to make way for courage. Ignorance must die for the birth of enlightenment. Dependency and irresponsibility must die so that independence and power can grow.

This part of the journey is similar to the Rite of Passage, where the child moves from dependence to independence, from selfish to giving; he accepts his independence and the responsibility it brings.

Part of the Transformation process is a *Revelation*, a sudden, dramatic change in the way one thinks or views life. This change in thinking is crucial because it makes the initiate a truly different person. The Revelation usually occurs during or after the *Abyss*, but sometimes it may actually lead the initiate into the *Abyss*.

"When you look into the abyss, the abyss also looks into you."

Friedrich Nietzsche



The Atonement

After the initiate has been transformed, he goes on to achieve *Atonement*, that is he is "at-one" with his new self and life. He has absorbed the changes caused by the Journey and he is fully "reborn." In a spiritual sense, the Transformation has brought the initiate into harmony with life and the world. The imbalance which sent him on the journey has been corrected—until the next call. The initiate is now truly a "hero" and he is content at last.

Here he receives a "boon," a gift which is bestowed upon him based on his new level of skill and awareness. He may become richer or stronger, he may become a great leader, or he may become enlightened spiritually.

The Return

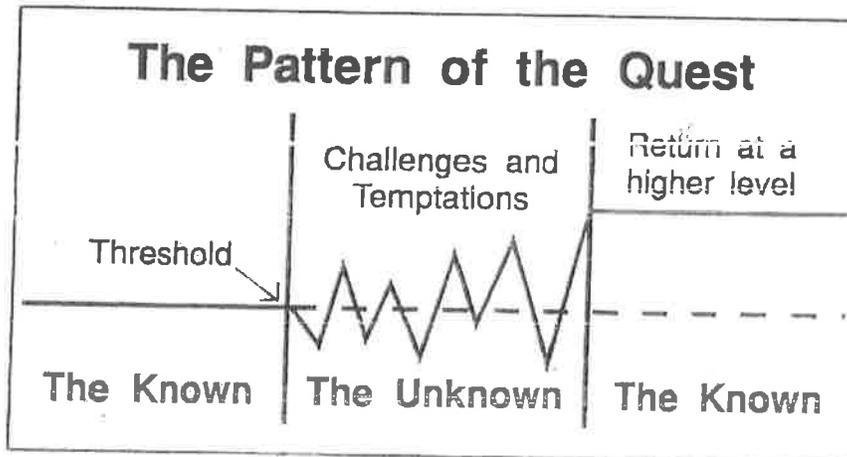
After Transformation and Atonement, the hero faces the final stage of her journey: her *Return* to everyday life. The essence of the return is to begin contributing to one's society. In mythology, the initiate may return as a great hero because she has saved or renewed her community in some way. Other mythological heroes return to create a city, nation, or religion.

Sometimes, however, things don't go smoothly. For example, she may return with a great spiritual message, but find that her message is rejected and that she is ostracized or even crucified for her ideal. The hero also runs the risk of losing her new understanding, having it corrupted by putting herself back in the same situation or environment she left earlier.

"Heroism is a matter of integrity—becoming more and more at each step ourselves."

Joseph Campbell

The Pattern of the Quest



Because she is on a higher spiritual level than her people, the hero may become disillusioned or frustrated and leave society to be on her own. On the other hand, many great heroes such as Buddha and Jesus have sacrificed the bliss of enlightenment or "heaven" to remain in the world and teach others.

The Journey is a Map

We know the story of the Journey originated with the ancient myths and legends, but it is still around us today. It is the basis for almost all of the books and plays we read. We see it in television programs such as "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman", "The Adventures of Lois and Clark", and occasionally—believe it or not—in "The Simpsons." Even the movies we enjoy—*Forrest Gump*, *Groundhog Day*, *Labyrinth*, *Field of Dreams*, *Ferris Beuller's Day Off*, *Cliffhanger*, *The Lion King*—are fictional depictions of the Hero's Journey.

The Journey gives you a means for understanding and benefiting from these fictional adventures. Even if the characters aren't real, the journeys they take and challenges they face are reflections of the real journeys and challenges we all face in life. As you watch them move through their quests, you can learn from their experiences.

Perhaps most importantly, though, the Journey is the pattern that we follow in our own lives as we face challenges and move from child to teenager, from teenager to adult, from adult to old age, and from old age into death.

The adventures you face will be challenging and exciting. They can open the doors to knowledge and understanding. If you understand the Journey pattern, you will be better able to face difficulties and use your experiences to become stronger and more capable rather than fearful and defensive. Understanding the pattern can help you achieve wisdom, growth, and independence. The Journey helps us become the people we want to be.

Plot Log

Instructions: Now that you know your main character (the initiate), you are ready to send him/her on an adventure. Use this log to help you construct a plot that takes your initiate on a hero's journey. For ideas, refer back to the logs you did on Gawain and Buddha (pages 16 and 24) and to the description of the stages of the journey (pages 7-10).

1. Describe the initiate's life before the Call.

2. The Call, where conflict is introduced.

3. The Threshold and Threshold Guardians.

4. The initiate's way isn't always direct or clear to him/her.

5. The initiate has a goal.

6. The initiate is accompanied or assisted by helpers: friends, servants, or disciples.

7. The initiate has a mentor.

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