

English 12 Summer Reading Assignment

Book: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* By: Khaled Hosseini

Annotation

Annotating a text, or marking the pages with notes, is a way to help you make the most out of reading for both your high school and future college courses. When you annotate a text, you make it easier to go back and study for a test, write an essay, or even just prove a point in discussion. Annotations also help to keep you organized and focused.

When annotating a text, you must be an active reader and be engaged in the text that you are reading.

A well-annotated text will accomplish all of the following:

- clearly identify where in the text important ideas and information are located
- express the main ideas of a text
- trace the development of ideas/arguments throughout a text
- note your thoughts and reactions and define unfamiliar words

Assignment: Read the novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini and annotate your book as you read. On the **first** day of school, please bring your copy of the novel to class (make sure your name is in it) and **I will collect** it to see that you have marked your book (you can use Post-it notes, notes in the margins, highlighting plus commentary, etc) – this will count as a class participation grade. The focus for your annotations should be to show the development of **two themes** that are listed below. You should be marking passages that you feel help to develop the theme that you chose, and they should be marked in such a way that you or anyone else (me) can tell which theme they go with. You should also annotate for major plot development, characterization, symbolism, etc.

When I look at your annotated book, I will be looking for two things: that your annotations are **throughout the entire novel**, and that you have some commentary – simply highlighting every few chapters is not thorough enough – why did you highlight something? Does the quote help illustrate a theme? In other words, I need more than just a marking, I need a brief commentary.

Choose *two* of the following themes and annotate the novel for them:

- Man's inhumanity to man
- Systematic victimization of women by patriarchal institutions
- Resistance to victimization
- Power of education
- Corrupting influence of absolute power

****Rubric on the following page****

Rubric for assignment

- Annotations are spread throughout the entire book, obvious effort shown _____/40
- Annotations show analysis and commentary (It is shown that you were actively involved with the text – you did not simply highlight every few pages. It is also clear you were conscious of the specific focus/ theme for the annotations) _____/60

There will be a reading quiz and we will start our writing process with this novel.

Happy Summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!!