



HELENA HIGH SCHOOL

1300 BILLINGS AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59601-3981

May, 2017

Dear LIT 110 Students,

Thank you and congratulations for doing something excellent for your education and signing up for LIT 110! As you know, this class is a dual credit course. This means that if you achieved the necessary scores on the ACT which you took in April, you qualify to take this class (and WRIT 101) for both Helena High English credit and college credit through Helena College. Dual credit courses are an amazing opportunity for several reasons: they are far less expensive than at universities and community colleges, they allow you to get a jump start on your post-secondary education, and they are accepted at all Montana universities in addition to some out of state universities.

In this class we will study many different kinds of literature including poetry, short stories, novels, and plays. Through close reading and a variety of analytical essays, you will be well-prepared for the type of thinking and writing you will be asked to do as you continue your post-secondary education.

LIT 110 is a college-level course. This means that you will be held to a college-level standard in terms of reading, writing, and thinking. Part of this standard includes summer reading. Over the summer, you are **required** to read *Open* by Andre Agassi. This autobiography should be finished by the first day of school. We will use *Open* to discuss narrative and the art of storytelling. Additionally, you will embark on a close reading exercise and presentation in addition to a short exam over the autobiography. There are copies of *Open* available to you for check out in the Helena High School office. You may keep the book throughout the summer and return it once school begins, or you may wish to check the book out at the Lewis and Clark Library or buy your own copy.

I truly believe that you will enjoy this autobiography; many of my former students have read it, and very few have given it a bad review. You don't need to be an athlete or a tennis player to enjoy the story of Agassi's life. Inside of each copy of the autobiography, I have included a bookmark for you. On it, simply keep track of chapters that you particularly enjoy or that are particularly meaningful to you. This quick list will help you with the close reading exercise at the start of the year.

My hope is that LIT 110 will be a productive experience and a meaningful introduction to college-level thinking, reading, and writing. Enjoy *Open*, be safe this summer, and I will see you soon!

Fondly,

Miss Schwartz

jschwartz@helenaschools.org