

English Department  
Helena High School  
1300 Billings Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

June 7, 2017

Dear Honors English II student,

Welcome to Honors English III! We look forward to a year of reading interesting texts, having great discussions, and writing for a variety of purposes. We ask you to come with a willingness to grapple with complex texts and ideas, to question your own opinions, and to listen to various perspectives with an open mind. Our principle goal is to help you develop and gain confidence in your reading, listening, writing, and speaking abilities.

Students will be responsible for completing their reading outside of class, thoughtfully revising their essay drafts, and thinking critically about various topics.

The summer reading assignment is Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. You may pick up a copy of this novel at the main office during summer hours: Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm.

See you Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>,

*Ms. Van Alstyne*

Ms. Van Alstyne

*Ms. Walsh*

Ms. Walsh

Honors English II – Summer Reading

Read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie.

When you finish the novel, answer the following discussion questions:

1. How does Sherman Alexie blend tragedy and comedy? Include one example from the novel.
2. How does society (Indian and white) identify Junior? How does Junior identify himself?
3. What does Junior do when he feels vulnerable and why? Include one example from the novel.
4. What parts of himself does Junior decide to hide and why? Include one example from the novel.
5. Why does Alexie include drawings? What would be lost if the drawings were absent? For what purpose does Junior draw?
6. What "tribes" do you fit in?

Select a quote from the book that speaks to you. Come with this on the first day!