BHS English 9:
Summer Reading Assignment

Freshman English is a survey class designed to give students an introduction to the skills they will develop throughout high school. For this reason the coursework is varied, but for much of the year we will consider the characteristics of a hero and what our heroes can tell us about ourselves. This summer reading assignment will begin that exploration.

	Heroes have extraordinary abilities. In fiction, they may even have supernatural powers.	

	A hero's gifts may be artistic, intellectual, spiritual, or physical.	

	Heroes often must prove themselves in great struggles. These are the times when they – and we – discover their true character.	

	Heroes can have glamorous jobs. They may also be ordinary people. Either way, they use their abilities to help others.	

English 9 students: Your summer reading assignment is to read at least one book about a heroic person or main character from the English 9 Summer Reading List. In the fall you will be asked to reflect on the nature of the heroism depicted in the book.

Honors English 9 students must read at least two books, one of which must be *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. You will write an impromptu analysis of the book during the first week of class. As to the second book, you may select a title from the Summer Reading List or may, instead, choose a book of your own. Either way, it should be suited to your reading level. A review of this second book will be due during the first week of school. Of course, we encourage you to read far more than two books! Read widely! Follow your interests! The storytellers of the ages are beckoning!

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