

English II: Choose ONE of the following books

Anansi Boys by Neil Gaiman OR

A Gathering of Old Men by Ernest Gaines

Please read the following assignments carefully. **Any assignment plagiarized in whole or in part will receive a 0.** DO NOT use Sparknotes, Shmoop, Quizlet, Gradesaver, or any other online sites. We are not interested in what the writers of these sites have to say about this book. We want to know what YOU think! Teachers **may** choose to assign AR quizzes on these novels.

ANNOTATIONS -- Mandatory for ALL students --

Annotate the novel, writing questions and comments in the margins. Ideally, you should read the novel once, and annotate the novel upon a second reading. Annotations consist of TWO PARTS:

1. Highlighting or marking w/sticky notes **specific lines or phrases** in the text you wish to comment on. These should be color-coded (see below). *Do not mark entire paragraphs!*
2. Notes written in the margins of the book commenting on a specific idea such as character, plot, style, etc. You should have **at least 5 annotations per chapter**. This minimum will earn you a passing grade, but does NOT guarantee an "A." It is a *minimum*.

Your annotations should reflect a CLOSE READING of the novel. If you have never annotated for a close read before, Google "how to annotate literature" or follow these links:

[Five close reading strategies to support the Common Core](#)

[Annotation Guide](#)

Use the following code to guide your comments:

- **BLUE HIGHLIGHTING/STICKY NOTES: IDENTIFY THEMES** -- Students should focus on three themes we will continue to study throughout the year: cultural representation, stories or narratives, and "legacy."
- **YELLOW HIGHLIGHTING/STICKY NOTES: IRONY** (verbal, situational, dramatic). *Where do you see the author using irony, and what kind of irony is being used? What does the reader learn about human behavior? If you do not understand irony, watch this video: [What is Irony? Three Types of Irony Lesson](#)*

*If highlighters or sticky notes are not available, record your annotations in a Google Doc by listing specific pages/line numbers along with your annotations.

***ALL SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE TUESDAY, AUGUST 16th – LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**