English II, Summer Reading

2019-20

Read: **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**

By Sherman Alexie

* **Publisher:** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 1, 2009)
* **ISBN-10:** 9780316013697
* **ISBN-13:** 978-0316013697

Your response will have two major sections.

A. Creative Response

B. Interpretive Response

**A. Creative Response**

Choose and create one of the following options:

* Newspaper article
* Obituary
* Editorial
* Letter to the editor
* Advice column
* Magazine article
* Local News Report
* Travel Brochure
* Cartoon/comic strip/graphic novel

While this piece must accurately use information from the book, it should extend, adapt and develop that information creatively.

(OVER)

**B. Interpretive Response**

1. Choose one of the Focus Questions from the list below. Compose and write an essay that adequately responds to the question and interprets the book.

Your answer to this question will be the thesis of your essay.

2. Your essay MUST:

Answer the question adequately.

Explore at least three incidents/passages in depth.

Focus Questions:

1. According to the author, is it harder for Junior at Reardan or on the Reservation?

2. Why is Junior successful at Reardan?

3. Why is it Junior and not Rowdy who can leave the reservation when Rowdy is supposedly stronger?

4. Do the deaths of his grandmother, sister, and Eugene make it easier or harder for Junior to find success and peace?

5. According to the author, is it more important that Junior re-establish his friendship with Rowdy or be successful at Reardan?

6. According to the author, what explains the emergence of Junior’s belief that he will be okay (p. 217)?

7. Why does Junior believe he is going to be okay when he realizes all the tribes to which he belongs (p. 217)?

8. If Junior is going to be okay (p. 217), why does he still hope and pray to someday forgive himself for leaving his family and reservation (p. 230)?

9. Why does the author end the novel with Junior and Rowdy playing basketball and not keeping score?

10. According to the author, is it more important that Junior succeeds at Reardan or that he re-establishes his friendship with Rowdy?

- Do Junior’s motives and reasons for wanting to leave the reservation change from the beginning to the end of the novel? (How and why?)

Note: page numbers may differ by edition.

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AND

**Kindred**

By Octavia Butler

* **Publisher:** Beacon Press (2003)
* **ISBN-10:** 0807083690
* **ISBN-13:** 978-0807083697

Note: “Kindred” is a time travel story written by the African American writer Octavia Butler. The protagonist, Dana, travels to a Maryland plantation in the early 19th century. The depiction of plantation life for slaves is realistic and does involve some scenes of violence and sexual molestation, none are excessive or gratuitous. There is also historically accurate use of the ‘n—‘ word.

For each book prepare the following:

A. Creative Response

B. Interpretive Response

(OVER)

**A. Creative Response**

Choose and create one of the following options:

* Newspaper article
* Obituary
* Editorial
* Letter to the editor
* Advice column
* Magazine article
* Local News Report
* Travel Brochure
* Cartoon/comic strip/graphic novel

While this piece must accurately use information from the book, it should extend, adapt and develop that information creatively.

**B. Interpretive Response**

1. Choose one of the Focus Questions from the list(s) below. Compose and write an essay that adequately responds to the question and interprets the book.

Your answer to this question will be the thesis of your essay.

2. Your essay MUST:

Answer the question adequately.

Explore at least three incidents/passages in depth.

Kindred, Focus Questions

1. Does the author want us to see Dana’s killing of Rufus more as a kind of success or a kind of failure?

2. According to the author, did the time travel accomplish its purpose?

3. Are we supposed to think that Dana is any better off for having had this time travel experience?

4. Why does Rufus decide to ‘have’ (rape) Dana?

5. According to the author, was Dana’s plan to have Rufus learn that blacks are as human as whites (twentieth century values) doomed to fail?

6. Is Dana more a part of Rufus’ successes and virtues or failures and vices?

7. Why doesn’t the author ever describe or explain the force that drives Dana’s time travel and connects her to Rufus?

8. Is the connection between Rufus and Dana (that draws her back in time) something dedicated more to Rufus’ survival and growth or containing and limiting his life and influence?

9. Is the time travel more concerned with Rufus or Dana?

10. Is the time travel in “Kindred” more of a malevolent or benevolent force?

(OVER)

The Absolutely True Story of A Part-Time Indian, Focus Questions:

1. According to the author, is it harder for Junior at Reardan or on the Reservation?

2. Why is Junior successful at Reardan?

3. Why is it Junior and not Rowdy who can leave the reservation when Rowdy is supposedly stronger?

4. Do the deaths of his grandmother, sister, and Eugene make it easier or harder for Junior to find success and peace?

5. According to the author, is it more important that Junior re-establish his friendship with Rowdy or be successful at Reardan?

6. According to the author, what explains the emergence of Junior’s belief that he will be okay (p. 217)?

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10. According to the author, is it more important that Junior succeeds at Reardan or that he re-establishes his friendship with Rowdy?

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