



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Reading 2025

Course: English 9 Honors

Contacts: Ms. Fulton (sfulton@bishopchatard.org) and Ms. Schafer (bschafer@bishopchatard.org)

To prepare for English 9 Honors, students will be required to read **ONE** of the following graphic novels. Along with reading, students will also be required to turn in a notebook with 20 double entry journals. Each of the graphic novels deal with many social issues that will be discussed over the course of the school year. **The assignment will be due on the first day of school.** Below are the titles of the books, as well as a brief summary of each.

English 9 Honors Book Options

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang** - *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang is a graphic novel that explores themes of identity, race, and cultural assimilation. It intertwines three storylines: Jin Wang, a Chinese American teenager, The Monkey King, a character from Chinese folklore, and Danny, a white high school student. The three narratives eventually intersect, with the novel showing how each character grapples with stereotypes and the challenges of balancing their cultural identity with the desire to be accepted in mainstream American society.

***The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman** - *Maus* by Art Spiegelman is a graphic novel that tells the story of the author's father, Vladek Spiegelman, a Polish Jew who survived the Holocaust. The novel alternates between two timelines: the past, where Vladek recounts his experiences during World War II, and the present, where Art interviews his father to learn about his history. The novel is notable for its use of anthropomorphic animals, with Jews depicted as mice, Germans as cats, and Poles as pigs, creating a unique way to represent the complexities of race, identity, and trauma.

***Monster: The Graphic Novel* by Walter Dean Myers** - *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers is a novel that tells the story of Steve Harmon, a 16-year-old African American boy who is on trial for his alleged involvement in a robbery that turned into a murder. The story is presented in the form of Steve's journal entries and a screenplay format, which provides a unique perspective on his thoughts and emotions as he navigates the legal system. The novel explores themes of racism, the criminal justice system, identity, and the concept of guilt and innocence.

***In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Second Battle of New York* by Don Brown** - *In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Second Battle of New York* by Don Brown is a historical novel that focuses on the events surrounding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City. The story is told from the perspective of various fictional characters who experience the attack in different ways. It highlights the chaos, fear, and bravery

that emerged in the wake of the tragedy. Brown provides a dramatic and emotional portrayal of the September 11 attacks, emphasizing themes of heroism, sacrifice, and resilience in the face of disaster.

Fax from Sarajevo: A Story of Survival by Joe Kubert - *Fax from Sarajevo: A Story of Survival* by Joe Kubert is a graphic novel that recounts the true story of the Bosnian War during the 1990s. The book is based on the experiences of a man named Ervin, a friend of Kubert's who lived in Sarajevo during the siege. The story is told through a series of letters (or faxes) that Ervin sent to Kubert, detailing his life in the city as it was torn apart by war. The graphic novel is a powerful and personal account of the horrors of the Bosnian War, highlighting the resilience of the people caught in it, and it stands as a reminder of the impact of war on civilian populations.

Double Entry Journal Example

Page Number	Quote	Reaction/Analysis
	<p>1. Write down significant or important passages (text):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Caught your attention</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Made you react strongly</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c. Made you think</p> <p>2. Include the page number after the text quotation</p>	<p>1. Write down your comments, reactions, connections, and questions about the text you selected.</p> <p>**Do not simply summarize what you read. Use the following prompts to help you:</p> <p>My reaction to this quotation is...</p> <p>I wonder...</p> <p>This reminds me of...</p> <p>I found this part confusing because...</p> <p>This makes me think that...</p> <p>You may also include:</p> <p>Connections</p> <p>Text to text</p> <p>Text to Self</p> <p>Text to world Observations</p> <p>Text Significance</p>