

**Stafford High School In-coming freshmen  
PRE-AP ENGLISH I Summer Reading REQUIRED Assignment**

You will be tested over your chosen books the first week of school. The test will require quoted textual evidence, and you will be able to use your annotated books to help you. You will turn in your annotated books when you take the test for the teacher to review what you have annotated for half of your test grade; you will not be able to bring in notes on paper. Everything must be written in the books. You cannot share the book with another student; ***you must have your own annotated books!*** The test over *The Secret Life of Bees* will be specific to its reading; the test over the two pieces of science fiction/fantasy will have questions that relate to both. This is a REQUIRED assignment for all Pre-AP English I students. You have all summer to get it done. No excuses accepted!

**YOU MUST READ:**

***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Susan Monk Kidd

**YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury

***Alas, Babylon*** by Pat Frank

**HOW TO ANNOTATE (half of this test grade will be based on your annotations!):**

1. At the top of the page or on a post-it, mark the most important **plot events**. Every page will NOT necessarily be marked.
2. Be sure to figure out any **unfamiliar words** through context or by using a dictionary. You can write the definitions right in the text for yourself.
3. Highlight and mark for yourself words and phrases that help describe the **personality of characters**. Note your ideas about the characters right in the text (personality, motivation, fears/dreams, etc.).
4. Highlight and mark for yourself any **conflicts** that occur with the main character (protagonist). Note your ideas about these conflicts in the text (who/what is involved, attempts to resolve conflicts, etc.).
5. **Don't mark too much**. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out!
6. Once you are completely finished reading the book and annotating, pick the **three most important thematic statement(s)** from the list below that your book addresses. (Not all of them apply to each book. However, each book does hit upon some of these themes. Write those themes on an inside cover or any blank pages of your book AND find **supporting evidence from the text** to support your ideas. Mark those supporting passages with post-its:

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- a. A just individual has obligations toward society.
- b. A just society has obligations it owes to an individual.
- c. Individual freedom is limited by \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. An individual can develop methods for judging right from wrong.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ kind of government is effective.
- f. Society must contend with the dichotomies presented by freedom and equality.
- g. An individual can survive if it is willing to adapt.
  
- h. An individual can experience redemption through  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- i. A society can experience redemption through  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- j. The accumulation of money and power leads to a loss of spirituality.