Dear Parents/Guardians and Potential Students of English I Pre-AP,

You have requested English I Pre-Ap for the upcoming school year. According to the College Board, the purpose of Pre-AP courses is to prepare every student for college, AP courses, and AP exams. Such preparation entails mastering advanced academic skills through challenging course work in the classroom.

Students who enroll in English I Pre-Ap are expected to read one of the books from the list below and complete a reading assignment over the summer. This helps students to foster independent learning, understand course expectations, and prepare for discussions in class.

In addition to reading one of the listed novels, students must complete the accompanying dialectical journal assignment, which will be due by the end of the first full week of school. Students should be prepared to discuss and write about their chosen text. The dialectical journal will serve as the pre-writing for the essay portion of the summer reading assignment. The essay will be completed in class during the first few weeks of school.

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<th>Grading Rubric</th>
<th>Dialectical journal 50%</th>
<th>In-class essay 50%</th>
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**9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment**

Choose one of the following texts to read, and complete a dialectical journal that explores the relationship between setting and characterization in the text. Your journal entries should focus on answering the following questions:

**How are characters influenced by their environment: home, family, friends, etc.?** How do external or internal struggles shape decisions the characters make? How do those decisions affect the outcome of the story?

*Between Two Skies* by Joanne O’Sullivan  
*Born to Rock* by Gordon Korman  
*It Started with Goodbye* by Christina June  
*Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt  
*Peak* by Roland Smith  
*The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen

*Please note that some of these books may contain mature or uncomfortable subject matter. Be sure to read the synopsis, reviews, and the table of contents before you decide on your book. As always, be an informed reader!**

**You must obtain your own copy of the book you choose and have it in class the first day of school.

If you have any questions about the assignment, please contact Christi Strange at cstrange@alvinsd.net.

Sincerely,

English 1 Pre-AP Teachers
The purpose of this assignment is to analyze how characters are influenced by their surroundings and struggles. Your dialectical journal will include quotes from the book along with your own interpretation.

Expectations:

- You should mark passages about characters' actions, emotions, and beliefs in respect to their environment/struggles in the text. You can focus on any character.
- You should have at least 10 entries.
- Your journal should be handwritten in a composition book.
- Copy the text verbatim (word for word), include quotation marks around the text, and write the author's last name followed by the page number in parentheses after the quote. The text should be meaningful. (You need at least 25 - 100 words in length.) An example is provided for you.
- Your commentary (your reflections) should be insightful and well-written, connecting the author's use of details related to the environment/struggles to the character's development. Everything written in this section should be in your own words, and no outside sources should be used. (Your response for each entry should be at least 75 - 150 words in length.)
- Record the word count for both the text examples and commentary in each entry.
- Edit for correct punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Write in complete sentences.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Date (in MLA format)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christi Strange</td>
<td>Bird Box</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
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### FROM THE TEXT (25 - 100 words)

1. Direct quotes (details or events from the text)

"Then she starts to cry. She cries because she passed out. She cries because a wolf attacked her. She cries for too many reasons to locate. But she knows part of it is because she's discovered that the children are capable of surviving, if only for a moment, on their own" (Malerman 160).

### COMMENTARY (75 - 150 words)

1. Identification and description of the environment and struggles of the character along with an explanation of how the environment/struggles influence a character’s actions, emotions or beliefs

Mallorie has many conflicting emotions as she wakes up and realizes that the children rowed the boat while she was asleep. She has raised them in a world where they know nothing but to do as she says or die. As she thinks of all the reasons that she cries, she realizes that the biggest one is because the children, her babies, are able to take care of themselves when she cannot. This realization shows Mallorie that no matter how much she thinks she is needed for their safety, they can take care of themselves, proving that she has raised them the best way she can in this world with an unknown enemy.
View the following for information about each book. Cut them out before you scan them.