American Literature and Advanced Composition
Summer Reading Assignment
Summer 2018

Step One: Read *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer. You can get this book from any bookstore or library.

Step Two: Answer each of the following each questions in complete sentences. Bring the completed answers and book on the first day of school.

**Background Information:**

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer is told from the perspective of nine-year-old Oskar Schell who has embarked on an urgent, secret mission to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This story, which is told in prose, poetry, and images, brings Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on a tender, complex, funny, and ultimately healing journey.
Questions: Each of these questions should be answered in paragraph form (probably typed!) using complete sentences and showing your best writing.

1. Who is Oscar? How does he change throughout the novel? As you read, identify moments that signify important elements of Oscar’s identity OR that reveal growth in his character. Another way to think of this is defining who Oscar is by capturing the most important parts of him as revealed throughout the novel. Use quotes (with page number citations) to back up your points.

2. At its core, this book is about 9-11. Using at least one outside source in your answer, explain what this book is trying to say about the events of and surrounding 9-11.

3. Choose one of the images from the text. Based on your reading, what do you think the picture is about? What does it mean or communicate? What words would you use to describe it? What effect do you think the photographer wanted the photograph to have on the viewer? Is there anything in the photograph that works against its dominant effect or meaning? Why include it in this novel?

4. Consider the idea of heavy boots and what it means to Oskar. Who else has heavy boots? How does each person cope to get lighter boots?

5. Letters are very important in terms of communication (or lack of communication) in this novel. Write a short letter either to Oskar from your perspective OR from Oskar to another character in the novel.

6. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* contains a wide variety of writing styles, using aesthetic qualities of text to help convey meaning. There are, for example, blank pages, single line pages, and completely filled lines that have no paragraph breaks. Pick a set of pages and explain how the choices that author makes in the aesthetic style of the text influences the meaning and theme of the text. *You may choose to annotate the text for this question rather than answering in paragraph form.*

**Annotation:**
- *Showing evidence of a close reading (connections, predictions, questions, clarifications, definitions, summarizing, challenging, etc.)*
- *Make note of significant items that jump out at you in the use of language, figurative language, character development, plot development*
- *If you purchased your own copy of the book, you may write in it, use post-it notes, photocopy your pages and annotate the copies, or select your chosen passage from a digital copy and annotate it using Preview, Microsoft Word, or GoogleDocs.*
- *Tips and reminders for annotations can be found on the following website: http://www.dsisd.txed.net/DocumentCenter/Home/View/14072*