



# CARL SANDBURG HIGH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL

## Junior American Literature Summer Reading 2017-2018 Carl Sandburg High School

Welcome to Junior American Literature! In order to create a foundation for the demands and content of Junior American Literature, as well as the important tests that take place junior year and to keep the mind active over break, students are required to read one novel over the summer. This text aligns with both the content of American Literature, as well as the reading and writing expectations that will be encountered junior year. For summer reading students will have to read the following book to complete the summer reading requirement.

### Text Option:

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live. With a forward by Markus Zusak, interviews with Sherman Alexie and Ellen Forney, and four-color interior art throughout, this edition is perfect for fans and collectors alike.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase the novel at school at the end of year. Otherwise they will have to acquire the novel on their own.

### Assignments:

1. Students are required to annotate the text while they read. There are two options for this. They can either annotate the text or use side by side notes (Cornell notes). An example for side by side notes can be found online in the Learning Toolbox from James Madison University (<http://coe.jmu.edu/learningtoolbox/cornellnotes.html>)  
Topics to look for and mark while annotating: Theme, Conflict, Imagery, Characterization
2. Students will take an assessment during the first weeks of junior year to assess their basic comprehension of the text. If you read the book in early June, review it before schools starts.

If you have any questions, please contact the

department chair, Sarah Smith. [sesmith@d230.org](mailto:sesmith@d230.org)

