

“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.” – Joyce Carol Oates

English IV

Note: Obtain your own copy of the book and bring it to class when school begins.

1. Read *The Martian* (2011) by Andy Weir.
2. Annotate the book as you read, and note connections to the following topics:



Survival
Sense of humor
Problem-solving
Isolation
Guilt
Commitment
Security
Suspense

Tips for annotation:

Avoid the use of highlighters.
Underline key words or phrases and memorable sentences or passages.
Identify unfamiliar words
Write questions in the margins about something you don't understand
Mark and comment on characters and ideas that you find intriguing
Note the use of literary devices
Make connections to other texts, your life, your world, etc.

3. As you read, consider these questions, and be prepared to discuss them in class.
 - A survival story has to resonate on a universal level to be effective, whether it's set on a desert island or another planet. In any setting, life includes challenges. How important are those challenges in keeping life vital?
 - Who knew potatoes, duct tape, and '70s reruns were the key to space survival? How do each of these items represent aspects of Mark's character that help him survive?
 - What makes us root for a character to live in a survival story? In what ways do you identify with Mark? How does the author get you to care about him?
4. Watch the movie.
5. Read each of these articles about the science related to the book/movie.

[Andy Weir - The Martian: How Science Drove the Plot](#)

[Author Of 'The Martian' Talks About The Science Behind The Book](#)

[Andy Weir and his book 'The Martian' may have saved NASA and the entire space program](#)

6. Know what's going on in the world. Read an actual newspaper; read the news online; listen to the news on the radio; or watch the news on television. Look into current news in fields that interest you: science, history, math, economics, art, health, medicine, law, politics, sports, fashion, etc.

Keep learning as you enjoy your summer break!