

HONORS ENGLISH 2 SUMMER READING DIRECTIONS

Dear Future Students of Honors English 2,

Please read the following book, *Better* by Atul Gawande, before school begins in August, 2018. **NO WRITING IS REQUIRED OR DUE. SIMPLY, READ THE BOOK.** Of course, you can take notes, annotate, and define unfamiliar words. Who knows--your teacher may reward you with extra credit. You will be expected to write about and discuss *Better* during the first week of the semester, so arrive to English class a *Better* reader.

As you read *Better*, think about the following questions:

1. New York Times book critic, Pauline Chen, said this about *Better*: “Gawande...manages to capture medicine in all of its complex and chaotic glory, and to put it, still squirming with life, down on the page...With this book Gawande inspires all of us, doctor or not, to be better.” Do you agree? Does Gawande’s book work best for medical professionals, or can one argue that *Better*, though set within the medical field, has universal appeal and themes?
2. John Carey of the United Kingdom’s *The Sunday Times* says about *Better*: “This is a book about failure: how it happens, how we learn from it, how we can do better. Although its focus is medicine, its message is for everybody...it has already been described as a modern masterpiece--and so it is.” Agree? Disagree?
3. How and why does *Better* relate to your experience (or not relate) with doctors, hospitals, and health care, in general?
4. Have you experienced healthcare in another country? If so, how and why does the country’s medical culture compare with your experience in the U.S., and with Gawande’s perspectives in *Better*?
5. Come to class with ideas about improving America’s health care industry. Which parts of *Better* inspire and support your ideas?