Welcome to Literature Across Cultures! I look forward to working with you this year.

We will begin the year with the novel *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie. It was published in 2007 and won the National Book Award the same year. Read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* over the summer and come prepared to discuss it the first day of class.

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* serves as a rich starting point for discussions about language, narrative technique, and cultural encounter that we will have in this course. This assignment will help you prepare to discuss the novel in September. It will also be of value as you write your first essay.

See you in September.
Ms. Sykes

**Assignment:**
The assignment has 2 sections. Part I focuses on the art in the novel. Part II focuses on quotes about moments of cultural encounter. Please complete both parts of the assignment.

**Part 1:**
Junior, the narrator of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, uses art to explore his relationships, ideas, and emotions. Identify two drawings in the novel that you find especially noteworthy. Describe the images and what Junior is trying to express. Next, explain why they are important in the context of the novel.

a) **Image 1 (page number):**
Describe the drawing. What is Junior trying to express? (3-5 sentences)

Why is this drawing important for the novel? (3-5 sentences)
b) Image 2 (page number):
Describe the drawing. What is Junior trying to express? (3-5 sentences)

Why is this drawing important for the novel? (3-5 sentences)

Part 2:
In this course, we will frequently discuss how culture appears in and is significant for literature. Identify three moments in the novel when culture or cultural encounter is especially important. Write a quote from the section and explain why you find it valuable and/or interesting.

a) Moment 1 - quote and page number:

Why did you select this quote?
b) **Moment 2- quote and page number:**


Why did you select this quote?


c) **Moment 3- quote and page number:**


Why did you select this quote?