

HONORS ENGLISH SUMMER READING PACKET

1 1th Grade

Statement of Purpose

“Why do we have this required summer reading?”

This question is often asked. The answers are multiple but begin with the nature of our school – a college preparatory high school. One of our academic goals is to prepare students to succeed beyond the walls of Ridgecroft.

Colleges and universities expect students to arrive having already read a significant amount and variety of literary works. That goal cannot be achieved exclusively during the school year.

Additionally, we believe that a summer reading program will:

1. Maintain and improve reading proficiency. Educational studies have shown that reading skills deteriorate when students fail to read during the summer months.
2. Increase fluency and vocabulary skills as students are introduced to new themes and vocabulary in their selected books.
3. Develop a wider range of reading interests as students are exposed to subjects and authors outside of their usual choices

Some Strategies for Planning Your Summer Reading

The first and most important tip is:

DON'T LEAVE IT ALL UNTIL THE WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL!

This may be obvious, but it needs to be said.

1. Buy your books early.
2. Once you have your books, the following system seems to work well for some people:
 - a. Add up all the pages that need to be read.
 - b. Add up all the days of summer vacation.
 - c. Subtract days you will need for writing assignments and days that it will not be possible for you to read.
 - d. The total number of days you have left are “reading days.”
 - e. Divide the total reading days by the total number of pages. That is how much you need to read each day to stay on track. Find a system that works for you.

Required summer work for all students entering Honors English /Literature III

Note: No outside sources, such as Spark Notes or Internet sites, (such as shmoop), may be used. The AP course is designed to prepare you for the rigorous analysis and writing that are required on the AP exam and the close reading required of college texts. Get used to coming up with and supporting your own ideas.

1.Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

While Go Set a Watchman was not published until July 14, 2015, it is crucial to understand that this is thought to be the first draft to Harper Lee's famous novel To Kill A Mockingbird. The title, Go Set a Watchman, comes from Isaiah 21:6; "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth." While you are reading this book you will be expected to complete 25 journal entries. This assignment is designed to encourage good reading habits. Because this is a journal assignment, less emphasis is placed on whether your responses are "right" or "wrong," and more emphasis is placed on how much you authentically engage with the text.

The procedure is as follows:

Each entry should be one of the following options listed below and should be labeled as follows.

Entry One: Pages 1-25

a. Option # __

You will need to vary your selections for each entry keeping in mind that you will use each option more than once. Remember that effort will be recognized, as will last minute weekend products. Take your time. Start early.

Journal Options:

1. Comment on the author's style, referring to particular words, phrases, passages. What do you notice about the author's writing that sets him apart?

2. Pick a passage which contains a specific literary device and make a comment as to the effect that device has on the passage as a whole.

3. Comment on your reaction to the story itself. How do you respond to the action? If you are not enjoying it, why not? If you are, why?

4. Write about how you fit into the story. Can you relate to some of the struggles? Do you see yourself in the story or how people are reacting? How is your life journey similar?

5. Describe the tone (attitude the speaker or sometimes the author has towards her/his subject) of the section by listing 10-12 words from the section and then discuss their overall effect on the section.

6. Use a creative writing approach. This one is wide open - anything goes.

TURNING IN WORK

ALL ASSIGNMENTS and your pledge statements ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (AUGUST 15).

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE THEIR SUMMER WORK COMPLETED AND TURNED IN BY AUGUST 16 WILL BE RESCHEDULED INTO A REGULAR LITERATURE CLASS.

Summer Reading Pledge Statement

I have read the following assignments in their entirety and have not consulted any outside sources. All the opinions in the written material are solely my own.

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Signature

Date