

Summer Reading: Honors English 1

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Welcome to Honors English 1! While I look forward to meeting you in person in the fall, I also want to take a moment to give you information that will be vital to your success this school year. It is important that you understand the commitment you are making by enrolling in this course. This course will be fast-paced and rigorous. Consistent completion of homework assignments is an essential part of this course and necessary for your success.

By choosing to enroll in this honors level course, you have accepted the challenge to engage in more rigorous work, beginning with this summer reading assignment. Prior to the first day of class, you are required to:

1. **Read “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer Adler**
 - a. This article provides information on how to **annotate** (or “mark”) a text while reading.
2. **Carefully read and annotate *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck**
 - a. Select three quotes from the text that you feel are important to the meaning or purpose of the work as a whole. Copy the quote in its entirety, citing the page number in your particular text. For each quote, you must also write an analysis of the quotation (at least one complete paragraph). Remember that analysis is not simply explaining the quote's context or rephrasing the quote. *It needs to explain why the quote is significant to the text or to your understanding of the text!*
3. **Carefully read and annotate *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* by Chris Crutcher**
 - a. Select three quotes from the text that you feel are important to the meaning or purpose of the work as a whole. Complete a written analysis for each quote following the same instructions as the *Of Mice and Men* assignment.
4. **Considering EITHER *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* OR *Of Mice and Men*, write a 1-page paper answering the following question:**
 - a. Should this book be taught at the high school level or are the topics too sensitive for a “young adult” novel?
 - b. Your paper should have a clear thesis statement (a sentence that articulates what your answer to the question is), should be organized, should focus on one answer only, and should contain **textual evidence** to support your stance.
5. **Read and annotate the following article regarding censorship:**
<http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/righttoreadguideline>

One activity that you will frequently engage in during Honors English 1 is a **Socratic seminar**. In Socratic seminars, small groups of students work together to discuss and debate an idea, piece of literature, or specific set of questions. At some point during the first month of school, you will be participating in a Socratic seminar about censorship in high school English classrooms. Your summer reading assignments will play a critical role during this seminar.

Where to Find the Texts:

All summer reading materials can be picked up in Mrs. LaFlamme's room (A238) prior to the end of the school year. However, if possible, it is highly recommended that you purchase your own copy of the texts so that you can annotate (or "mark") them as you read. If you are unable to do this, you can also annotate each novel using post-it notes!

Used copies can be found at a reduced cost on Amazon.com - but don't wait until the last minute!

Formatting Instructions:

Each part of the assignment should conform to the following format:

- Microsoft Word or Google Docs
- 1" margins on all sides
- 12 point, Times New Roman font
- Double spaced
- Header, author information, and title (see attached sample)
- Supporting quotes from the text **MUST** be cited in MLA format (see attached sample)
 - Remember that "quotes" from a text do not need to be dialogue between the characters. ANY piece of text you use from the novels constitutes a "quote."

Ignoring any of these formatting directions will result in your grade for the assignment being lowered one full letter grade.

Submitting Your Assignments:

Your completed summer reading assignments are DUE by **Thursday, August 29**. Late work will NOT be accepted for this assignment. Failure to submit these assignments will put you at an extreme disadvantage for the first quarter of your high school career. If you do not have printer access at home, please email Mrs. Laflamme to arrange an opportunity to print it out at school.

Our first few weeks of school will revolve around your summer reading, and the texts will be covered on the first semester's final exam.

Plagiarism:

To utilize the ideas of another individual without giving proper credit is considered plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the assignment as well as an after school detention with Mrs. LaFlamme. Furthermore, use of outside sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, or any other literary study guide is NOT permitted for this assignment. I want to read your thoughts, reactions and interpretations based on your own reading of the texts.

If you have any questions regarding the summer reading assignment, you are more than welcome to email Mrs. LaFlamme at jlaflamme@thompsonpublicschools.org or jlaflamme@thompsonk12.org. I look forward to meeting you this fall! Enjoy your reading!