

Summer Reading

Incoming 9th Grade Honors English

Congratulations on challenging yourself with Honors English in the 9th grade! I hope you will enjoy the novels and projects that are in store for you, as well as the heightened expectations for you as an honors student. Because the pace at the honors level is advanced, you will need to begin right away!

Required book: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

This is a book that all of you will need to read. Not only will you will be reading it – you will be questioning the characters’ motives and decisions; you will be judging whether they make “right” decisions throughout the book.

THE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

A dialectical journal is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You simply write down **passages** that make you think, or interest you, and write about **your thoughts**. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature. By writing about literature, you make your own meaning of the work in order to truly understand it. When you do this yourself, then the text belongs to you--you have made it yours. The passages are there for everyone to read; however, the connections and interpretations are uniquely yours. You are neither right, nor wrong in your response. So be willing to take risks and be honest.

WRITE ABOUT: what you like, what you dislike, what seems confusing, what seems unusual, what you think something means, what personal connections you make, what predictions you can pose. Possible sentence lead-ins might begin like:

- * I really don't understand this because
- * I really like/dislike this idea because
- * This idea/event seems to be important because
- * I think the author is trying to say that
- * If I were (character), at this point I would . . .
- * This part doesn't make sense because . . .

Use a 3 ring binder (you can keep it to use during the year as well). You will need two separate sections:

Quotes and Characters.

QUOTES: 15 Quotes are required. If you choose to go beyond this, please do not exceed **25**.

For Example: pg 10 “John was dressed in a light colored shirt which matched his sky blue eyes.” I like how the author didn’t tell the color of the shirt until the end of the sentence- very clever.

CHARACTERS: you will keep a list of the main characters and write down information from the book as well as from your own opinion. You can focus on the following:

- what the character does
- what the character says
- how others act toward the main character
- what others say about the main character.

For Example: John Smith – tall, 30 years old, auto mechanic. seems to be a shy man without many friends. Not sure if I like him yet – seems a little shady to me.

This Dialectical Journal will be turned in the first week of school. We will be discussing and doing assignments based on this novel for the first few weeks. Also, be prepared to write an essay using your analyses and observations.

Enjoy the book!

CHOICE BOOK LIST

This is more of a book club assignment. You get to choose one book from this list to read. While you do not have to do a dialectical journal, you will have to be able to discuss the book. You will have to know characters, plot, conflict, and conclusion. You will also have to discuss with the class whether you would recommend this book or not and give reasons why.

A Separate Peace, by John Knowles

Death of a Salesman, by Arthur Miller

Animal Farm, by George Orwell

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury

Red Badge of Courage, by Stephen Crane

The Great Gatsby, by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho

The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak

The House on Mango Street, by Sandra Cisneros

Monster, by Walter Dean Myers