



Summer Journey 2022:
English 9 Honors

Hello Incoming Tigers!

Ideally, we could all spend some time this summer on a grand adventure through California, America, or somewhere around the world. If we cannot have that ideal, the writer Emily Dickinson recommends books as a way to visit faraway "lands." As motivated students beginning Tokay's Honors/AP English pathway, begin your grand high school journey by joining our summer [Google Classroom \(join code: j3okgv3\)](#) then completing the following assignment as a graded requirement for Tokay's Honors English classes.

In keeping with Tokay's high expectations for our Honors/Advanced Placement students, incoming freshmen are **required to complete a summer assignment to be turned in on the first day of school.** You have three **requirements:**

- ★ Read one book of at least 100 pages (more if you'd like to!),
- ★ Write at least 6 journal entries about your book (more if you'd like to!)
- ★ Memorize and present a poem of at least 4 lines to our class (more if you'd like to!)

Materials (please let me know in advance if acquiring these is a problem):

- ★ One spiral-bound, college-ruled, 8.5" x11" notebook (we will use this for the entire year)
- ★ A book (fiction or non-fiction) at least 100 pages in length

Reading

Find a good book! I've been reading the [Lunar Chronicles](#) with some students, and we're all entertained! Go the library and/or ask friends/family for a recommendation of any book that has at least 100 pages. Read and enjoy; be prepared to write about and discuss the book during our first week of school. If possible, bring the book with you during the first week of school. If you check out a library book, be sure to renew it to avoid fines.

No later than June 30, reply to the Book Choice question on our Google Classroom.

Writing ([Here's a link to my example](#))

Musicians who want to excel practice; athletes who want to excel practice; padawans who want to excel practice. To attain the sophisticated writing skills requisite for Advanced Placement students, practice. Over the

course of the summer, practice your writing skills and find your writing voice by writing at least six journal entries in a spiral-bound notebook that you can use through the rest of our school year.

For each journal entry, write the **title and date** then **copy one line** that you find interesting from the book you choose to read. Include the **page number**. Skip a line and then write a paragraph in which you explain **how the line fits into the book** as a whole and **what makes the line important** to you.

Speaking and Listening ([Here's a link to my example](#))

Fortify yourself! Some extroverts are perfectly comfortable speaking in front of a class: I admire such people! As an introvert, I find public speaking intimidating; with nearly 30 years of teaching experience, I can speak at ease in front of a class with my students, but when parents are in the classroom or I have to speak publicly, my heartbeat accelerates. Nevertheless, I forge ahead as best I can. I hope you will do the same with our quarterly poetry readings. Prepare for the first recitals in our first week back to school.

To find a poem you can share with the class, delve into the poetry section at the library, look online, and/or ask people you know. [Shel Silverstein](#) is a childhood favorite; [Robert Frost](#) and [Emily Dickinson](#) are American literature superstars of the past; [Amanda Gorman](#) and [Rupi Kaur](#) are deservedly popular today; some regard [Shakespeare](#) as a poet who is unmatched, though his language is challenging for modern readers.

As you consider your options, foremost should be personal appeal: choose something that speaks to YOU. If you don't find something you like about the poem, others might not either. And don't feel like you have to understand everything in the poem. Of course you can look up unfamiliar words, but some texts reveal themselves over time after multiple readings.

Consider, too, what you can **memorize**. Short poems are perfectly acceptable, but your poem must be a minimum of four lines. While you may have a note card in hand when you present, listening to someone read from notes can be painful for an audience so do your best to memorize your poem.

Use a pen to copy the poem you choose **including its title and writer** into your notebook after your journals; **add a symbol/image at the end of each line** to help you remember the main idea of each line. Then practice practice practice: read your poem aloud to yourself over a period of time, recite it to your family, recite it to friends, recite it to your pet. Use the volume and pacing and inflection of your magical marvellous voice to help convey the poem's meaning. We will begin presenting these in class during our first week back to school.

Questions? Be sure you've read these directions carefully to make sure the answer isn't already covered then email me. One of your very important jobs as a student is to ask questions, so feel free to begin practicing this skill.

Happy Summer Daze!

Mrs. Najwa Dougish
ndougish@lodiUSD.org
darcykwentworth@sbcglobal.net