

# Westlake High School

## Mt. Pleasant Central School District

West Lake Drive  
Thornwood, NY 10594  
(914) 769-8311

Dear Students,

Welcome to English 9 Honors! Selecting this course tells me that you want to be challenged, stretched, and taught well, and I will do my best to do just that. 9H is an advanced course that moves at a quick pace; we read a lot, and we write a lot. As such, I am asking you to read three books over the summer and do some work to prepare you for the rigor of the class.

Please read the following over the summer:

- 1) *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- 2) *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- 3) A book of your choice

***I will provide you with copies of the above texts, but if possible, I would recommend buying the books to highlight and annotate directly in them. I completely understand if you choose not to.***

I have prepared some materials on Google Classroom to set some context for *Mockingbird* and *Of Mice and Men*. Read this information BEFORE reading each book. For *Mockingbird*, read and annotate towards the ideas and questions located on Classroom. As you read *Of Mice and Men*, flag passages that correspond to the ideas on the next page. Simply enjoy your choice book! Finally, complete a digital Word Journal (100 words) for your three summer reading books.

You should also review the attached parts of speech notes. These are terms that you should already know as you enter 9H. We will review this topic within the first few days of school, and we will have a quiz on them shortly thereafter.

See the next page for a detailed breakdown of the assignment. All work is located on Google Classroom.  
**Please bring a hard copy of your Word Journal to the first class.**

The completed assignments are **due on the first day of class** and are a **prerequisite** for the course. You may be asked to write in response to any/all of these books within the first week of school. ***Students may be asked to consider English 9 Regents as an alternative placement if the assignment is missing, incomplete, plagiarized, or poorly done on the first day of class.*** If you have any questions over the summer, feel free to contact me at [cdippolito@mtplcsd.org](mailto:cdippolito@mtplcsd.org). Because of vacations and/or other commitments, I may not respond right away.

Have a great summer! I look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. D'Ippolito

## Breakdown of Assignments:

- 1) Read information on Google Classroom (Code: **val2qvp**) for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. After, read and annotate towards the focus questions, and take notes on the novel. Add to your Word Journal.
- 2) Read information on Google Classroom for *Of Mice and Men*. If possible, purchase a few packs of the RED, YELLOW, GREEN, & BLUE Post-It Flags. They can be the .47 inch wide [[click here](#)] or the .94 inch wide [[click here](#)]. As you read, add to your Word Journal, and use the Post-It Flags to mark passages as follows:
  - **The Power of Friendships & Relationships**
  - **Hopes/Dreams OR The American Dream**
  - **Loneliness and Isolation**
  - **An Important Section or Quotation**
- 3) Read your choice book. Recommendations are located on Google Classroom. Add to your Word Journal.
- 4) Complete the Summer Reading Word Journal by hand or digitally (100 words) as you read the texts. I pushed out a copy for everyone on Classroom. **You should have words chosen from all three texts.**
- 5) Review the parts of speech. We will review them again as a class within the first two weeks of school, and we will have a quiz on them. These are terms that you should feel confident in *prior* to entering 9H.

Google Classroom Code: **val2qvp**

## Grammar you should already know coming into 9H:

PART OF SPEECH	BASIC FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
<u>noun</u>	names a person, place, or thing	<i>pirate, Caribbean, ship</i>
<u>pronoun</u>	takes the place of a noun	<i>I, you, he, she, it, ours, them, who</i>
<u>verb</u>	identifies action or state of being	<i>sing, dance, believe, be</i>
<u>adjective</u>	modifies a noun	<i>hot, lazy, funny</i>
<u>adverb</u>	modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb	<i>softly, lazily, often</i>
<u>preposition</u>	shows a relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and other words in a sentence	<i>up, over, against, by, for</i>
<u>conjunction</u>	joins words, phrases, and clauses	<i>and, but, or, yet</i>
<u>interjection</u>	expresses emotion	<i>ah, whoops, ouch</i>
<u>article</u>	identifies and specifies a noun	<i>a, an, the</i>

Now you will have the opportunity to select 100 personalized vocabulary words based on your **9H summer readings**. Include the word, the part of speech, the definition, and the source with a proper citation. This may be handwritten.

	<b>Word</b>	<b>Part of Speech</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Source</b>
1.	incantations	noun	Chanting of magical words or formulas that are supposed to cast a spell or perform other magic.	(Narayan 11)
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