



Dear Upcoming 9th Grade Honors English Students:

Before you begin the summer assignment for Honors Literature, it is important that you know the expectations for all honors English students at Jefferson High School. Please read the statements below before beginning your reading, and keep these expectations in mind as you complete the summer assignment:-)

Literature Skills

- Student can effectively express ideas in writing and discussion.*
- Student understands the conventions of writing and can apply writing conventions to written work.*
- Student is a critical reader, providing thoughtful insights about texts read in class.*
- Student is expected to read outside of class from the original texts.*

Motivation/Work Ethic

- Student can work independently, completing tasks that are academically rigorous.*
- Student is a problem-solver.*
- Student is expected to turn-in completed work on designated due dates.*
- Student is expected to attend class each day. If there is an absence, the student will likely have to stay after school for additional instruction.*

Academic Integrity

- Student work is expected to originate with the student.*
- All reading is to be done from the original texts rather than abridged versions, summaries, or other text aides.*

Below is a list of novels—some old, some modern. I've also included two choices that are memoirs. This summer, you will need to read **TWO** of the listed texts in order to be prepared for Honors English. You will be held accountable for this reading in the two weeks of school. It is your responsibility to be done reading by that point and extensions will not be granted.

During the first week of school, expect writing prompts, discussion prompts, and creative assignments focusing on your novels. **It will be to your advantage** if you take some kind of notes and pay meticulous attention to the readings. For students who are less comfortable “taking notes,” and would rather “journal” as they read, I am including a list of helpful prompts to consider as you read. Any notes or journals you compile are to help you perform better on the assignments during the first week of school; I will not collect them for a grade.

Please recognize that it is perfectly acceptable to struggle with some of your reading; at this point,

you only become a better reader by finding material that causes you to reach and struggle.

If you consult other sources to aid your comprehension, make sure you use these sources to *support* your comprehension and *not replace* the reading of the novel itself. Doing independent research about the time period of your book may be helpful to you. While you have a choice of novels from this list, please do not choose one that you have already read, has been read to you, or whose movie you have seen (even the cartoon). Additionally, children's illustrated classics and abridged versions are an insult to your lexile level.

*Some of the books deal with mature topics or use language that you might find offensive. It would be to your benefit to do a little research before choosing your novels to ensure that the subject matter and language are within your acceptable reading standards. If you run into something you are uncomfortable reading, choose a new book!

PLEASE NOTE:

This is not something you can put off until the last week of the summer, so get started as soon as possible. Some of the reading will be difficult. Plan ahead: give yourself enough time to change novels if you find one that you do not like. It doesn't matter if you start ten of them; just have **two** completed before the first day. You are responsible for obtaining copies of the novels either through a library, a bookstore, electronically, or borrowing from a friend.

Remember, you are making a commitment as an honors student to complete your work to the best of your ability. I expect an honors performance. Please plan accordingly with your time. If you lose this list, you can find it on the school website.

Feel free to email me with questions. I look forward to meeting you! Happy reading!

Ms. Baird ☺

danielle.baird@jeffcityschools.org

Choices (**you choose 2**):

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain
We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson
Animal Farm by George Orwell
Night (memoir) by Elie Wiesel
Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Journal Ideas: The following is a list of suggested sentence lead ins:

1. I wonder what this means...
2. I really don't understand this part because...
3. I really like/dislike this idea because...
4. This character reminds me of somebody I know because...
5. This character reminds me of myself because...
6. This character is like (name of character) in (title of the other work) because...
7. I think this setting is important because...
8. This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of work) because...
9. This part is very realistic/unrealistic because...
10. I like/dislike this writing because...
11. This section makes me think about ... because...
12. This section is particularly effective because...
13. I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because...
14. I like/dislike (name of character) because...
15. The ideas here remind me of the ideas in (title of work) because...
16. This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. It happened when...
17. The character I most admire is _____ because...
18. If I were (name of character) at this point, I would...