

Honors English 9 Summer Assignment (2024-2025)

Welcome to Honors English 9! This summer you will be expected to read one novel and complete the related assignments which will help you to build background knowledge, analyze textual evidence, and gain a deeper understanding of the novel through exploration of a theme.

Please read all of the information that follows carefully. If you have questions after reading this, please contact me by email at asnider@turlock.k12.ca.us or sign up for the class remind by texting the message @thshoneng9 to the number 81010

All the assignments described below will be due on the **first day of school (August 13, 2024)**. There will not be any exceptions made regarding the due date. All assignments must be typed on one Google document and must be easily accessible on the first day of school (in other words, make sure you use your TUSD account so that you can pull the assignments up in class). If you do not have access to a TUSD account, a computer, and/or the Internet, please contact me so we can make other arrangements.

All work submitted must be your original work. Plagiarism is the act of using another person's IDEAS or WORDS and passing them off as one's own. Using any form of artificial intelligence to complete your assignment is also a form of academic dishonesty.

You will upload your assignments to turnitin.com during the first week of school. Turnitin searches the internet and its own database to detect similarities between student work and internet sources, other students' work, and artificial intelligence. If any assignments are found to be plagiarized (copied/pasted directly from the internet, artificial intelligence, or another student for example), those assignments will receive a zero and you will not be able to make up the assignment or points lost. Please make sure you submit only your own work. 😊

SUMMER NOVEL: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

This novel is available to pick up at the Turlock High School bookroom on **TUESDAY, JUNE 11th or TUESDAY, JUNE 18th during the hours of 7:30 am- 1:00 pm**. You can also pick up your Chromebook this day. The THS bookroom will not have the book available on any other date. If you do not pick your book up on one of those days (or want to get it earlier), you may purchase *Of Mice and Men* online, borrow it from the library, or find it for free through various online sources by searching *Of Mice and Men* pdf.

Assignment 1: Research Assignment

Prior to reading *Of Mice and Men*, conduct research regarding John Steinbeck, the Great Depression, and the Dust Bowl (Make sure to research all three).

Search the Internet for several articles that contain information about John Steinbeck, the Great Depression, and the Dust Bowl. Read each article. After you have gained an understanding of each of the topics, write a three-four paragraph response in which you clearly summarize what you learned. A summary will consist of your **own words** and should not have any quoted material in it. Provide the links for all sources you use at the bottom of the summary. **This assignment will be 3-4 paragraphs total (not 3-4 paragraphs per topic).**

Assignment 2: Read *Of Mice and Men*

There will be a test on this novel during the first week of school—read closely and carefully (and review before school starts, especially if you read the novel at the beginning of summer break). This test will ask specific questions that will most successfully be answered by reading the text carefully; please do not rely on SparkNotes, Shmoop, or any other similar website or video summaries as your main source of information about the novel.

Assignment 3: Theme Analysis

Choose one of the following themes to track throughout the novel: Hopes and Dreams, Loneliness, Friendship, the American Dream, or Power (physical, emotional, based on gender/race, etc.). For the ONE theme you choose, trace the development of that theme throughout the entire novel by identifying one passage per chapter (a total of six) that adds to the development of that theme. Create a table in your Google doc for this assignment. For each passage, cite it in MLA format on the left-hand side of the table, and then explain the significance of that passage on the right-hand side. Each explanation of significance must be at least 75 words—include a word count at the end of each response. To do this: Tools → Word Count

This is your opportunity to showcase your writing skills, so please put your best effort into your responses. Refrain from using first person (I, me, my, myself) and second person (you, your, you're, yourself) in your analysis, proof-read carefully, and run spell-check.

There is an example below to guide you. **You may not use this same passage for your assignment.**

Passage from <i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Analysis of Theme
“With us it ain’t like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us” (Steinbeck 14).	This passage establishes the theme of hopes and dreams in the novel. In this exchange between these two characters, George reminds Lennie that they are not like other ranch workers; they have goals and aspirations that help give them purpose. They are not just mindlessly working day after day, but they are instead working towards something—their future. Not only does this passage illustrate that they are willing to work hard in order to reach their common goal, but it also creates a contrast between George and Lennie and the other workers: George and Lennie have a close bond with one another, whereas the other ranchers live a solitary existence. This is one of the characteristics that make George and Lennie different from the other people they meet. It is also one of the reasons they are so motivated to work hard to accomplish their goals. (145 words)

I look forward to meeting you all in August!
Mrs. Snider