

**To:** Incoming English 9 Honors Students  
**From:** The English Department  
**Re:** Summer Reading Assignment  
**Date:** June 2024

Every student is required to have completed **TWO TEXTS** by the first day of class in September. You will be assessed on your reading, and the grades will count towards the first marking period.

- ***King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table (Green--fiction)***  
Based on Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*, this is a retelling of the story of the boy fated to be the "true-born King of Britain," covering his glorious reign and his tragic, yet triumphant, passing.
- ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (Twain—satirical fiction)***  
Nineteenth-century mechanic Hank Morgan suffers a blow to the head and wakes up in King Arthur's Court where he tries to introduce modern technology and political ideas to the inhabitants.



Since some of the reading is challenging, it is recommended that you give yourselves enough time to read carefully and thoughtfully.

**USE POST-ITS TO ANNOTATE.** In addition, **PARTICIPATE IN GOOGLE DOC DISCUSSIONS (FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE).**

To help you pace your reading/manage your time and engage in good discussion, here is the reading schedule that should be followed:

***King Arthur*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**)

***Connecticut Yankee*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Tuesday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>**)

**OPTIONAL:** If you are looking for additional recommendations for personal reading, consider the titles below. They are all wonderful reads!

- ***Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya (lexile 580)**  
Marcus Vega is six feet tall, 180 pounds, and the owner of a premature mustache. When you look like this and you're only in the eighth grade, you're both a threat and a target.  
After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mom decides it's time for a change of environment. She takes Marcus and his younger brother to Puerto Rico to spend a week with relatives they don't remember or have never met. But Marcus can't focus knowing that his father—who walked out of their lives ten years ago—is somewhere on the island.
- ***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson (lexile 690)**  
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

- ***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass (lexile 710)**  
Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.
- ***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (lexile 750)**  
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.
- ***Everything Sad is Untrue: a true story* by Daniel Nayeri (lexile 800)**  
At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls "Daniel") stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch smells funny; who makes things up and talks about poop too much. Like Scheherazade in a hostile classroom, Daniel weaves a tale to save his own life: to stake his claim to the truth.
- ***Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Fedelre (lexile 930)**  
An eighth grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."
- ***Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston (lexile 1040)**  
During World War II a community called Manzanar was created in the high mountain desert country of California. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese Americans. Among them was the Wakatsuki family, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, who was seven years old when she arrived at Manzanar in 1942, recalls life in the camp through the eyes of the child she was.

## DIRECTIONS FOR GOOGLDOC DISCUSSION ENTRIES ENGLISH 9 HONORS

While you are reading this summer, you will have an opportunity to reflect on the readings, post questions and share your insights with your classmates and your teacher (remember the guidelines for **Dignified Dialogue**). This will happen using a GoogleDoc.

### **What is a GoogleDoc?**

It is an online document to which people are invited so that they can collaborate and share ideas.

### **Getting Started:**

**Step 1**—Email Mrs. Papadopoulos at [academicsforlife@gmail.com](mailto:academicsforlife@gmail.com)  
Include the following message:

Hi Mrs. Paps,  
This is type your name. Here is my email address. I am taking identify the honors course.

**Step 2**—You will receive an “invitation” from Mrs. Papadopoulos to join a GoogleDoc. Click the link in the invitation, so that you can access the GoogleDoc.

(NOTE: If these directions are confusing, please email Mrs. Papadopoulos for assistance.)

**Step 3**—As you read your texts, you must access the GoogleDoc and post your contributions (follow the directions included in the GoogleDoc). You will be invited to a separate GoogleDoc for each novel which you are reading.

(NOTE: Each time you complete a post, make sure to identify yourself—name and date.  
Log on early and follow the reading schedule so that you can benefit from the on-line discussions.)

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

*When are these reading logs due?* As you read, take the time to complete your posts. Make sure that you complete your responses by the first full week of school.

*How do I access the GoogleDoc?* Besides access from the emailed invitation, you can also go to google.com and sign-in to your account.

*Who do I contact over the summer if I have questions?* You can email Mrs. Papadopoulos at [academicsforlife@gmail.com](mailto:academicsforlife@gmail.com)