



Emerly Martinez  
Principal

Dear Ninth Grade English Honors Student:

We would like to wish you a wonderful, productive summer as you prepare for your first year at White Plains High School.

As an incoming English 9 Honors student, you are required to read TWO books: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck and one additional book of your choosing from the attached list of suggested titles. As you read, employ close reading strategies while focusing on identifying literary elements such as plot structure, theme, conflict, and character development. After reading both books, you will complete a written essay assignment centered on the thematic topic of HONOR.

Your **SUMMER READING ESSAY** must include the following components:

1. An INTRODUCTION that includes:
  - a. a thesis that states your definition of HONOR and/or what makes a person HONORABLE
  - b. the titles and authors of the two books you read (If you do not read *The Pearl* and a second book from the attached list, you will still be required to submit the essay using any two books you have read - the highest grade you may receive is an 80)
  - c. connects your definition of HONOR to the characters, plot, and/or theme of the stories you read
  
2. BODY SECTION ONE that includes:
  - a. a claim (topic sentence) that connects the thesis to *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
  - b. evidence from the story that supports claim (direct and indirect)
  - c. elaboration and explanation that provides connection and insight
  - d. a concluding sentence that summarizes HONOR in *The Pearl*
  
3. BODY SECTION TWO that includes:
  - a. a claim (topic sentence) that connects the thesis to the second book you read
  - b. evidence from the story that supports claim (direct and indirect)
  - c. elaboration and explanation that provides connection and insight

- d. a concluding sentence that summarizes HONOR in book two
4. A CONCLUSION that includes:
    - a. a summary of the main idea(s) presented in the essay
    - b. a connection beyond the texts (how does the thesis apply to us?)
    - c. a return to the thesis

**FORMAT:** Your essay may be typed or hand-written. If typed, it must be double-spaced, Times, New Roman, font size 12. If hand-written, it must be in pen, legible, and neat in presentation.

**DUE:** The essay is due on **Monday, September 9, 2024**, and will be collected by your English teacher.

You may purchase your own copies of *The Pearl* and supplemental book if you wish or check out copies at the White Plains Public Library. The full text of *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck is available to read online on multiple websites that are easily searchable. Please visit your local library or bookseller to acquire your second book.

For your summer reading assignment, it is important to submit only original work to maintain academic integrity and foster genuine learning. This allows you to truly showcase your unique ideas and creativity and gives your new teacher an opportunity to get to know you and your voice. Embracing your own voice not only strengthens your skills but also makes your learning experience more rewarding and enjoyable. We have high expectations for a successful year ahead, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Your WPHS English 9H Teachers

Please choose your second book from the following list:

<b>Book Title and Author</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Genre</b>
<i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama	An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.	Memoir
<i>The Poet X</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo	Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Although she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking, Xiomara refuses to be silent in world that may not want to hear her.	Novel in Verse
<i>Dear Martin</i> by Nic Stone	Stone’s debut novel confronts the reality of police brutality, misconduct, and fatal shootings in the U.S., using an authentic voice to accurately portray the struggle of self-exploration African American teens experience every day.	Novel
<i>We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World</i> by Malala Yousafzai	Yousafzai writes with gut-wrenching detail, showing readers the many complex layers of life as a refugee including the struggle of escape, the frustrations of bureaucracy in the face of mortal danger, and the painful goodbyes along the way.	Memoir
<i>Ann Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation</i> by Ari Folman	This is the first graphic edition of <i>The Diary</i> and includes extensive quotation directly from the definitive edition. It remains faithful to the original, while the stunning illustrations interpret and add layers of visual meaning and immediacy to this classic work of Holocaust literature.	Graphic Memoir
<i>Just Mercy</i> by Bryan Stevenson (Young Readers Edition)	A Harvard Law graduate decides to give up a lucrative career to defend prisoners on death row.	Nonfiction
<i>The Distance Between Us</i> by Reyna Grande	Grande’s memoir tells the story of her life before and after she illegally emigrated from Mexica to the United States.	Memoir
<i>Children of Blood and Bone</i> by Tomi Adeyemi	A West African-inspired fantasy novel that conjures a world of magic and danger. The protagonists find themselves on a dangerous quest for power.	Fantasy
<i>Life as We Knew It</i> by Susan Pfeffer	Miranda’s disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun?	Sci-Fi
<i>Dante and Aristotle Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i> by Benjamin Alire Saenz	Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship--the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime.	Realistic Fiction/Coming of Age

<i>They Both Die at the End</i> by Adam Silvera	This devastating yet uplifting story about two people whose lives change over the course of one unforgettable day reminds us that there's no life without death and no love without loss.	Fantasy
<i>Dry</i> by Neil Schusterman and Jarrod Shusterman	When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival.	Dystopian
<i>The Iliad: Graphic Novel</i> by Gareth Hinds	More than 3,000 years ago, two armies faced each other in an epic battle that rewrote history and came to be known as the Trojan War. <i>The Iliad</i> , Homer's legendary account of this nine-year ordeal, is considered the greatest war story of all time and one of the most important works of Western literature.	Graphic Novel
<i>Eleanor and Park</i> by Rainbow Rowell	Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits-smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.	Realistic Fiction/Romance