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Summer 2025 Reading Assignment
8th Grade English I

Congratulations on enrolling in an English I Pre-AP class. This course poses a greater demand than a traditional eighth-grade course and will give you greater knowledge as well as the opportunity to earn high school credit in middle school. With this opportunity comes responsibility; this course allows for high school credit but also requires the successful completion of the English I EOC Exam. It is necessary for students to prepare for the rigors of the course. One of the methods of preparing and acquiring said knowledge is through reading. Students who have enrolled in an advanced class must read and complete all portions of the summer assignment. When reading, please take notes; your assignments have been attached. During the first week of school, you will receive a Pre-AP English I agreement for you and your parents to read and sign. The agreement will explain the rigor and expectations of the advanced course and the repercussions if you do not comply.

Note: Assignments must be submitted no later than Friday, August 22, 2025. Any student who fails to submit his/her work will receive zeros for all assigned portions of the summer reading. Keep in mind that not turning in your first assignment may lead to the removal from the course.

Academic Dishonesty As a student in this course (and any academic setting), you will receive a ZERO for the given assignment if you commit or assist someone else in committing plagiarism. Plagiarism is the theft of words, phrases, sentence structures, ideas, or opinions. Plagiarism occurs when any such information is taken from any source or person and—intentionally or unintentionally—presented or “borrowed” without mention of the source. Plagiarism also occurs when materials from cited sources are reproduced exactly or nearly exactly but are not put in quotation marks. Copied work of any kind or cheating in any other fashion will NOT be tolerated. Students may not collaborate with other students, former students, parents, or anyone else to complete these assignments.

Note from your English I teacher: DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO START ON THIS ASSIGNMENT. REMEMBER THAT THIS ASSIGNMENT IS YOUR FIRST ACADEMIC IMPRESSION.

HAPPY READING, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

ASSIGNMENT

You will read and analyze the short stories listed below. There are a total of 4. You will analyze for character and plot development as well as theme and other literary elements. Please read carefully to ensure that you complete the assignments in their entirety.

The stories can be found online; simply search the title and the author.

“[Story of an Hour](#),” by Kate Chopin

“[The Sniper](#),” by Liam O’Flaherty

“[The Drummer Boy of Shiloh](#),” by Ray Bradbury

“[The Parable of the Prodigal Son](#),” by Gospel of Luke: Bible Gateway

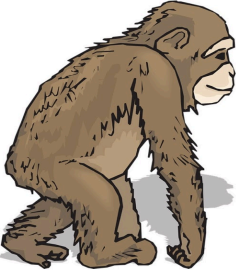
Part I: Read the stories in their entirety.

- As you read, annotate for the following:
 - Setting, conflict(s), symbols, characterization/character development, quotes/interesting incidents in the story.
 - Do not be afraid to write on the stories and in the margins.
 - We will be working with more in depth analysis and annotation throughout the year.

Part II: Short Constructed Responses

- Respond to the questions below using APE and/or RACE formats:

A.P.E. **Answer it**
What is the answer to the question you've been asked? Remember what you've read; don't guess.



Prove it
Choose a quote which helped you answer the question. Remember to use inverted commas around the word(s) or phrase(s) the author used.

Explain it
Why did that quote help you answer the question? Give as much detail as you can.

@MRSPTEACH

or

RACE

Restate the question using a sentence format.
Example: Why was Jim late? Jim was late because...

Answer the question completely.

Cite evidence from the text that supports your answer.
Examples:

- According to the text...
- In the text/story...
- The author stated...

Explain how your evidence proves your answer.
Examples:

- This evidence shows me...
- This evidence proves...

- There are 2 questions per story.
- Construct effective and thorough responses.

- You should have a total of 8 responses.
- These must be hand-written, original responses.
- Due: Friday, August 22, 2025

Short Constructed Responses

Respond to all of the questions below. Be sure to answer these in Answer, Proof, Explain/Answer, Cite, Explain format or Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain format. These must be hand-written, original responses.

“Story of an Hour,” by Kate Chopin

1. Explain a major theme in the story. Be sure to include evidence to support your response.
2. How does Mrs. Mallard's death in the conclusion contribute to the story's overall meaning? Be sure to include evidence to support your response.

“The Sniper,” by Liam O'Flaherty

1. How do the Republican Sniper's feelings evolve throughout the story? Be sure to include evidence to support your response.
2. How do the character's actions influence the theme of the selection? Be sure to include evidence to support your response.

“The Drummer Boy of Shiloh,” by Ray Bradbury

1. Which details describe the setting? How might the details of the setting contribute to the theme? Be sure to include evidence to support your response.
2. What might the pile of leaves and twigs symbolize? How does this image impact the mood of the story? Be sure to include evidence to support your response.

“The Prodigal Son,” by Gospel of Luke: Bible Gateway

1. What can you infer about the father's character based on his reaction to the prodigal son's return? Be sure to include evidence to support your response.
2. What is the main message of “The Prodigal Son” parable, and how might this message apply to a modern audience? Be sure to include evidence from the text to support your response.