



To Whom It May Concern,

Welcome to Brush High School and to Honors English 9. This summer, in preparation for Honors English 9, you will read a curated collection of short fiction pieces and write a three-page essay. The short fiction pieces that you will read are: “The Sniper,” “The Most Dangerous Game,” “The Rights to the Streets of Memphis,” “The Gift of the Magi,” “The Scarlet Ibis,” “Marigolds,” “Two Kinds,” and “The Cask of Amontillado.” You will have access to a Google Classroom page, which will function as a repository for the collection of short fiction pieces, and you will be required to take handwritten notes about each story in a college-ruled notebook. If you need access to the Google Classroom page, please send an email to marker@sel.k12.oh.us and I will enroll you.

After closely reading and annotating these works you will write a three-page essay where you will analyze three of the short fiction pieces through the lens of the universal theme of pride. Your essay should examine the positive and negative effects of pride while making certain to distinguish authentic pride from hubristic pride. Remember, this is an analysis, not a plot summary, and your essay should consider the impact that pride has on a character’s relationship to themselves, to others, and to society.

When writing your essay, state your thesis, or controlling statement, at the end of your introductory paragraph. For analytical depth, you must include a minimum of six direct quotes. Remember, when using quotes, you lead into the quote by providing context and follow up with explication. Make sure to correctly cite the quote (author’s last name and page number), e.g. (Collier 6), and then analyze the quote as it connects to your thesis. Your essay must include a Works Cited page.

The first draft of your paper will be checked on the first day of school. This essay must be three typed pages (font size 12, Times New Roman, double spaced). It must have an original title, and it should be in MLA format. Hand-written papers will not be accepted for credit. Please refer to the Purdue Online Writing Lab at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl> for all your MLA Format needs. The expectation is that you will put forth your best effort. We will spend the first two weeks of school discussing the writing method and revising your papers to meet the standards of the Brush High School Honors Program, at which point you will receive a grade based on the quality of your revisions after instruction.

Furthermore, the final copy of the paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com before the paper is graded. Instructions for submitting the paper to Turnitin.com will be given at the start of the school year. Failure to arrive with your paper on the first day will result in a 10% reduction in points each day the paper is late. In addition, please remember to bring your Chromebook to class on the very first day, so we can begin discussing the short fiction pieces. You will have a test on the collection of short fiction within the first month of school. Have a great summer, and I look forward to working with you in August!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marker
marker@sel.k12.oh.us