

LA10H/Gemellaro
Summer Reading Information
bgemellaro@rochester.k12.mi.us

Welcome to Honors LA10. Through the exploration of American literature, this class will continue to develop critical reading, critical thinking, analytical discussion, and academic writing skills.

Please join Google Classroom with this code: **5ch5o654**

It is imperative that students have a strong foundation in the following areas:

- Critical thinking
- Active reading strategies, including annotations, to facilitate a greater understanding
- Class discussion techniques
- Developed essay structure
- Analytical writing
- Grammar and mechanics

In preparation for the start of the 2025-2026 school year, you are expected to read and comprehend three texts. One you are already familiar with if you took Honors LA9, one that I have selected, and one that you will select. There are required assignments for the assigned texts, one you will complete and turn in digitally before we return to school in August, two that will be due shortly after school begins (the second day of classes). There will also be a comprehensive test, your first diagnostic writing assignment and a Socratic discussion that will take place within the first weeks of school.

The first related **assignment** will be due to Turnitin.com before 7:30AM, Monday, August 18th. Turnitin.com will lock at 7:30 AM. The due date is part of the assignment, so you may not submit it late.

SUMMER READING SELECTIONS (required)

1. **Reading and taking notes** on chapters from: *How to Read Literature like a Professor* Revised Edition by Thomas C. Foster (read and make notecards for assigned chapters) Required Chapters: Intro, 1-6, 12, 19, Interlude “one Story” 24, and 25.
*You may have read and annotated some of these chapters previously if you were Honors LA 9.
2. **Selection of a memoir or novel:** select ONE of the following to read this summer. Please bring your selected novel or memoir on the first day of school. You will be getting your related writing assignment once classes begin.

A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah
Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
The Color of Water by James McBride
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
Junkyard Dogs by Katherine Higgs-Coulthard
The Far Away Brothers by Lauren Markham
Into the Abyss by Carol Chaben
The Family Romanov by Candace Fleming
Escape from Camp 14 by Blaine Harden
A House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

I Will Always Write Back by Martin Ganda
Lone Survivor by Luttrell and Robinson
The Disaster Between Us by Reyna Grande
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
Educated by Tara Westover
Honor Girl by Maggie Thrash
Flowers in the Gutter by K.R. Gaddy
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Lab Girl by Hope Jahren
Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

3. **Read and complete Socratic discussion assignment** for *1984* by George Orwell. Keeping *How to Read Literature like a Professor* in mind, of course.

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS (Three in total. One completed and submitted to Turnitin.com before August 18th, 7:30 AM, and the other two completed and brought to school on the first full day of classes, August 26th)

1. Notecards *How to Read Literature...*: You will be taking notes on the assigned chapters for *How to Read Literature like a Professor*. Note taking is an active reading strategy that allows the reader to react to the text. These notes will provide an enriched understanding. Your notes should provide explanation, critical commentary, and connection. Your notes should vary amongst students and chapters, and should reflect a high level of engagement with the text and should be varied. They are not merely copied word for word from the text.

- Create ONE “notecard” for each of the required chapters (12 total). Your typed notecards should include: Chapter #/Title, key definitions, ideas, and/or quotes. The purpose is to limit what you put on the cards so that you are forced to summarize, and synthesize the information in a condensed and usable manner. Do not write word for word/copy and paste from the text. Your notes can be bulleted and complete sentences are not required. Each “note card” is limited to no more than 150 words. (12pt Times New Roman Font). Put all 12 chapters on the same document. This document must be submitted to www.turnitin.com by August 18th 2025 7:30AM.
- This submission is part of the assignment, be conscious of the deadline.
 - Class name: Honors LA 10 Summer Reading 2025-2026
 - Password: English (this website is case sensitive)
 - Class id: **48865658**
 - Assignment title: HTRLLP Note Cards

2. Journal Assignment Critical Memoir or Novel (of your choice) It is important that while you read, you are checking for understanding. For your summer reading choice title, you will be keeping a reading journal in which you use *How to Read Literature like a Professor* (HTRLLP) as a companion to foster a greater understanding of the text.

- For your selection of the novel or memoir, you are going to complete 12 journal entries.

****You may select your journal entries from the following prompts listed below.** At least half of your entries should be generated from this list. Each entry should be hand-written on looseleaf paper and at least one comprehensive paragraph long (topic sentence followed by seven to nine detailed sentences that fully address the topic [question], and references *HTRLLP* in some way) Focus on one of the questions below or a specific topic or question that you have developed yourself that you can relate to *HTRLLP*. At least six of your journals must come from the prompts below.

****Please note these are generic questions and many of them use the word “character.”** Obviously, this word only applies to novels. If you have selected a memoir, please substitute it for the word “author” or the author’s name since the author is writing about him/herself and not a fictional character.

Questions about Meaning	Questions about Technique
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the author’s purpose? Is the purpose worthwhile? ● What is the author’s attitude toward a character, a theme, the setting, etc.? Do you agree with this attitude? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How does the author structure the text? Is the structure effective? ● What important details does the author include?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Who is the author’s audience? Would the audience agree with the author? ● What does the author seem to focus on in the text? Why might he/she do this? ● What is the character like? ● What motivates the character/author? ● Does the character/author behave correctly according to societal norms? ● Describe the climax? ● Is the ending effective? Why or why not? ● Is the title effective? Why or why not? ● What ideas or emotions are suggested by figures of speech? ● Are the author’s ideas important? Why or why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What comparisons and figures of speech does the author include? Describe how he/she uses them. ● What ideas are suggested by comparisons and figures of speech? Are the author’s comparison and figures of speech effective/original? ● Which of the following techniques are important in the text: atmosphere, suspense, irony, conflict, word connotation, figurative language? Why? ● How effectively does the author use selected techniques? ● Are the details selected by the author appropriate and effective? ● Is the author accurate or is the author substituting emotion for logic?
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***Please use examples that represent the beginning, the middle, and the end of the text. They are not to favor any one particular section. (You ultimately want to prove you have read and understand the text).

***You are analyzing (applying literary interpretation to) the text and its purpose, NOT summarizing. All grammar, spelling, and formatting rules apply. Also, you may not use any form of the pronouns “I” or “you”

- This journal writing assignment for your choice reading memoir or novel, is to be done by hand on loose-leaf paper. Typed journal entries will not receive credit. This assignment is due on Tuesday, August 26th. The first full-day of classes.

3. Socratic Discussion Preparation for *1984*: Once classes have begun, you will participate in a special kind of discussion called a Socratic Seminar. This is an all-hour discussion run completely by students without any teacher input. The purpose of the discussion is to explore the novel to develop a deeper understanding of the themes, ideas, and historical context. In order to be prepared for a thoughtful, academic discussion, you will need to complete the assignment below.

The following prompts must be answered in complete sentences. You must write down the chapter (from *1984*) that invoked your question or comment. You must have two sentences for each prompt for a total of 24 sentences.(there are more prompts than are required-pick 12 of the 15). Please include the page number for the prompts that require textual evidence.

For example if your Socratic discussion is regarding *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*:

“I’d like to talk with people about why Huck is so superstitious. (Chapter 4)

“I’d like to talk with people about why Huck is so comfortable with Jim, someone whom society claims he shouldn’t trust.” (Chapter 8)

- What puzzles me is...
- I’d like to talk with people about...
- I’m confused about...
- Don’t you think this is similar to...
- Do you agree that the big idea seems to be...
- Something that I didn’t like is...
- This reminds me of...

- I have questions about...
- Another point of view is...
- I think it means...
- Do you think...
- What does it mean when _____ says.....(required evidence/passage from the text)
- Do you agree that...
- Wouldn't it have been interesting if...
- I really liked when...

Give some thought to the following:

1. What is the purpose and pros and cons of technology? Rebellion? Censorship? Propaganda?
2. How important is individual identity?

- Your discussion prompts are due in class on August 26th. (The first full day of classes). These may be typed or handwritten.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MATERIALS:

- Notecards for *HTRLLP* must be submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com), before Monday, August 18th, at 7:30 AM.
- On the first day of school, come prepared with your choice text (novel or memoir) in hand.
- On the first full day of school, you must have your journal writing assignment for your choice novel and your Socratic Seminar discussion prompts for *1984* ready to turn in.

District Summer Assignment Policy:

Summer work is necessary for honors and AP courses in order to help students build prior knowledge that is essential for the curriculum at the beginning of the school year.

All typed summer work must be completed in **ONE** Google Doc. Any assignments submitted with copied and pasted text will not receive credit.

Please see Rochester Community School's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) for further clarification regarding expectations for completing summer work.