Summer Reading Assignment: *Murder on the Orient Express*

Welcome to your Senior year! This summer, you will be reading Agatha Christie's classic whodunit, *Murder on the Orient Express*. This novel is a masterclass in perspective, justice, and the complexity of human nature.

To ensure you are prepared for Day 1, you will need the following materials:

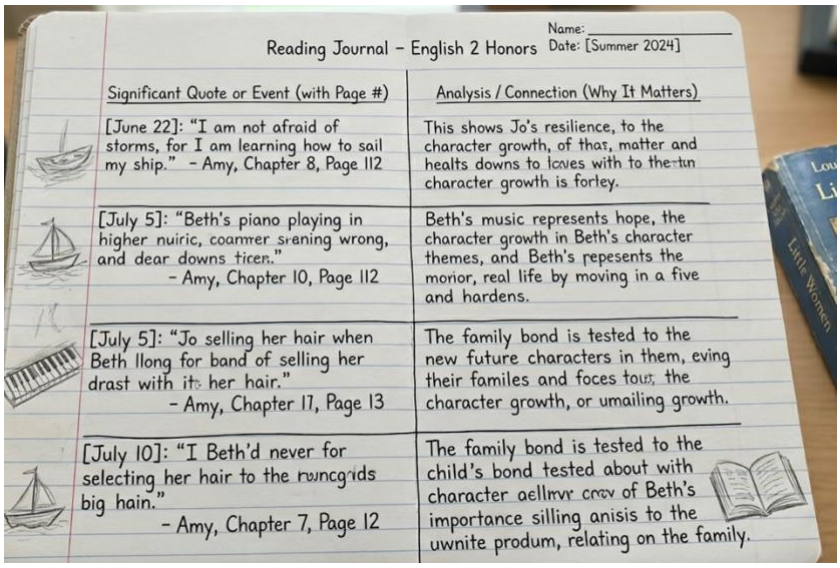
1. **A composition book** (this will be your primary journal for the entire year).
2. **A paperback copy** of *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie.

Part 1: The Reading Log (Active Listening & Note-Taking)

Before we begin the year, you must set up your journal. You need **10 entries total** recorded in your new composition book. **Note: Loose-leaf paper will not be accepted.**

- **Labeling:** Each page must have your name, the date, and the focus: "Summer Reading: Murder on the Orient Express."
- **Left Side:** Write down a short quote or a specific event/clue (with the page number).
- **Right Side:** Write 2–3 sentences of analysis. Why is this detail suspicious? What does it reveal about a passenger's character? How does it help or hinder Hercule Poirot's investigation?

The novel in the photo below uses "Little Women", but you can use it as a reference for expectations on neatness, organization and how to label.



Reading Journal – English 2 Honors

Name: _____
Date: [Summer 2024]

Significant Quote or Event (with Page #)	Analysis / Connection (Why It Matters)
[June 22]: "I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship." – Amy, Chapter 8, Page 112	This shows Jo's resilience, to the character growth, of that, matter and healts downs to loves with to the-tun character growth is forley.
[July 5]: "Beth's piano playing in higher nuiric, coamer sraning wrong, and dear downs ticen." – Amy, Chapter 10, Page 112	Beth's music represents hope, the character growth in Beth's character themes, and Beth's repesents the morior, real life by moving in a five and hardens.
[July 5]: "Jo selling her hair when Beth llong for band of selling her drast with its her hair." – Amy, Chapter 17, Page 13	The family bond is tested to the new future characters in them, eving their familes and foces tous, the character growth, or umailing growth.
[July 10]: "I Beth'd never for selecting her hair to the rwncgrds big hain." – Amy, Chapter 7, Page 12	The family bond is tested to the child's bond tested about with character aellmvr crev of Beth's importance silling anisis to the uwnite produm, relating on the family.

Part 2: Writing Component

Instead of a standard essay, you will present your findings in a structured legal brief format using bullet points. Choose **one** of the following questions to answer:

Option 1: Is the resolution of the case a form of true justice, or is it merely revenge?

Option 2: Hercule Poirot often speaks of the "logic" of the mind versus physical evidence. Which does he rely on more to solve this specific mystery?

How to format your legal brief:

- **The Claim:** A one-sentence answer to your chosen question.
- **Reason 1:** One specific clue or quote from the text.
    - *Explain:* How does this specific detail prove your claim?
- **Reason 2:** Another specific clue or quote from the text.
    - *Explain:* How does this specific detail prove your claim?
- **The Verdict:** A final sentence that wraps up your entire argument.

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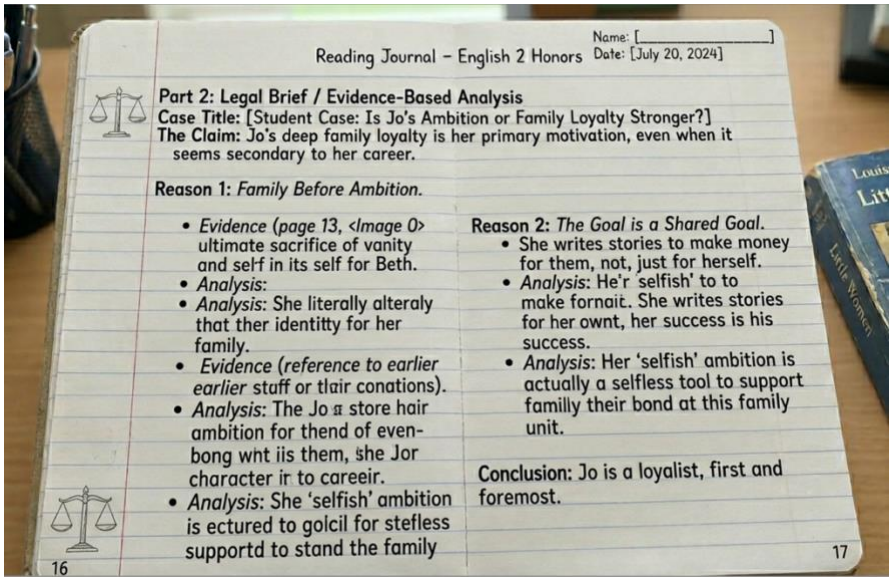

Name: [_____]
Reading Journal – English 2 Honors Date: [July 20, 2024]

Part 2: Legal Brief / Evidence-Based Analysis
Case Title: [Student Case: Is Jo's Ambition or Family Loyalty Stronger?]
The Claim: Jo's deep family loyalty is her primary motivation, even when it seems secondary to her career.

Reason 1: *Family Before Ambition.*

- *Evidence (page 13, <Image 0>* ultimate sacrifice of vanity and self in its self for Beth.
- *Analysis:*
- *Analysis:* She literally alteraly that ther identitty for her family.
- *Evidence (reference to earlier earlier* staff or tlair conations).
- *Analysis:* The Jo ɑ store hair ambition for thend of even-bong wnt iis them, she Jor character ir to careeir.
- *Analysis:* She 'selfish' ambition is ectured to golcil for stefless supportd to stand the family

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Reason 2: *The Goal is a Shared Goal.*

- She writes stories to make money for them, not, just for herself.
- *Analysis:* He'r selfish' to to make fornait. She writes stories for her ownt, her success is his success.
- *Analysis:* Her 'selfish' ambition is actually a selfless tool to support familly their bond at this family unit.

Conclusion: Jo is a loyalist, first and foremost.

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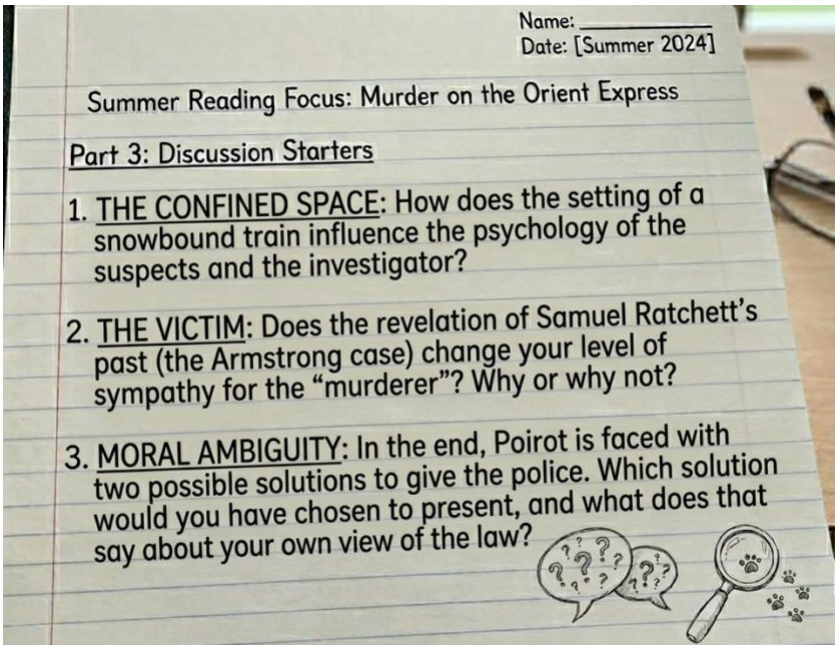
Part 3: Discussion Starters

Senior English is centered on discourse! Prepare for our first-week by writing down your initial thoughts on these three prompts in your journal:

1. **The Confined Space:** How does the setting of a snowbound train influence the psychology of the suspects and the investigator?
2. **The Victim:** Does the revelation of Samuel Ratchett's past (the Armstrong case) change your level of sympathy for the "murderer"? Why or why not?
3. **Moral Ambiguity:** In the end, Poirot is faced with two possible solutions to give the police. Which solution would *you* have chosen to present, and what does that say about your own view of the law?