

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

West Lake Drive
Thornwood, NY 10594
(914) 769-8311

Dear Future 9H Students,

Welcome to English 9 Honors! Selecting this course indicates that you want to be challenged, stretched, and taught well, and I will do my best to do just that. 9H is an advanced course that moves quickly; we read and write a lot. To that end, I am asking you to complete a summer reading and writing assignment to prepare you for the rigor of the class.

Please read the following:

- 1) Ch. 1 ("Every Trip Is A Quest...") from Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
- 2) *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- 3) A book of your choice

I will provide you with copies of "Every Trip is a Quest" and To Kill a Mockingbird, but I recommend buying your books to highlight and annotate directly in them. I completely understand if you choose not to.

I have prepared some materials on Google Classroom to set some context for *Mockingbird*. Read the Foster text and this information BEFORE reading the book. Then, grab a new spiral/marble notebook before you start reading; this will be your notebook for my class. Start a new page titled "Summer Reading - TKAM" and use the "To Kill A Mockingbird Notes" document on Classroom to read and take notes. Read and enjoy your choice book. Please choose a developmentally appropriate book. There is no need to mark it up heavily; however, if a sentence or passage resonates with you, jot some notes on post-its or your notebook. **Be prepared to discuss and write about both books in class in September!**

You should also review the attached parts of speech notes. These are terms that you should already know as you enter 9H. We will review this topic during the first few days of school and have a quiz shortly after.

See the next page for a detailed breakdown of the assignment. All work is located on Google Classroom.

The completed assignments are **due on the first day of class** and are a **prerequisite** for the course.

Students may be asked to consider English 9 Regents as an alternative placement if the assignment is missing, incomplete, plagiarized, or poorly done on the first day of class. If you have any questions over the summer, feel free to contact me at cdippolito@mtplcsd.org. Because of vacations and other commitments, I may not respond right away.

Have a great summer! I look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. D'Ippolito

Breakdown of Assignments:

- 1) Read and annotate Ch. 1 (“Every Trip Is A Quest...”) from Thomas C. Foster’s *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Review the “Heroic Journey” notes on the final page.
- 2) Read information on Google Classroom (Code: **2tiq43ay**) for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. After, read the novel and use the focus questions posted to the class page to take notes in your new notebook. These notes should be **HANDWRITTEN**.
- 3) Read a book of your choice. Please post the title, author, and number of pages on the assignment on Classroom by **Monday, July 6th**. I will post last year’s students’ summer reading titles to give you some recommendations.
- 4) Review the parts of speech. We will review them again as a class within the first two weeks of school and have a quiz on them. These are terms that you should feel confident in *before* entering 9H.

Google Classroom Code: **2tiq43ay**

Grammar you should already know coming into 9H:

PART OF SPEECH	BASIC FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
<u>noun</u>	names a person, place, or thing	<i>pirate, Caribbean, ship</i>
<u>pronoun</u>	takes the place of a noun	<i>I, you, he, she, it, ours, them, who</i>
<u>verb</u>	identifies action or state of being	<i>sing, dance, believe, be</i>
<u>adjective</u>	modifies a noun	<i>hot, lazy, funny</i>
<u>adverb</u>	modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb	<i>softly, lazily, often</i>
<u>preposition</u>	shows a relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and other words in a sentence	<i>up, over, against, by, for</i>
<u>conjunction</u>	joins words, phrases, and clauses	<i>and, but, or, yet</i>
<u>interjection</u>	expresses emotion	<i>ah, whoops, ouch</i>
<u>article</u>	identifies and specifies a noun	<i>a, an, the</i>