

Fauquier High School 9th Grade Honors Required Summer Reading

Your summer assignment is to read the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and complete a journal of your reading and thinking. We will begin the class with discussions on the novel, so you'll want to be ready! You are expected to do your own original work with this journal. Do NOT work together on this. Do NOT use the internet for help.

Due Date: The first day of school regardless of which term you have English. You are to drop off your hand written assignment to Ms. Major in Room 310.

You may email me if you have any questions at jmajor@fcps1schools.net.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

A. OBTAIN A NOVEL, you can purchase your own copy, check one out from the local library, or check one out from Fauquier High School. If you need to check out a copy from FHS, visit the main office, and the staff will assist you.

B. YOUR JOURNAL

1. You are to hand write a dialectical journal; typed versions will not be accepted unless you have a special accommodation to type assignments. Complete a journal entry for every **two (2) chapters**. You will have a total of fifteen (15) journal entries (there are 31 chapters, so your final entry should be about the last 3 chapters instead of 2).
2. To create a dialectical journal, you divide your pages into three (3) columns (example on the back). You can do this in a notebook or simply staple lined notebook paper together.
 - a. The **first** column should include the **chapter numbers and the literary element(s) included in your analysis**.
 - b. The **second** column will include the **quote** you feel is important for the 2 chapters read and the **page number** from where it is found in the novel.
 - c. The **third** column will be your discussion/reflection/analysis and should be 8-10 sentences.
3. Ideas and instructions for the third column:
 - a. Include what you thought of the chapters. What did you like or dislike, what was funny, what was sad, was there anything that surprised you or you thought was interesting?
 - b. Discuss at least one literary element:
 - i. Character development (how a character changes)
 - ii. Themes: prejudice (sexism, racism, classism), refuting prejudice, courage, empathy (understanding other people), moral character, and education.
 - iii. Conflicts, setting, symbols
 - iv. Worldly Connections (similarities to your experiences or our world)

Dialectical Journal Example

Chapters	Quote & Page #	Reflection
Ch 1-2 Characterization Theme	“Because nearly the whole of the produce of our labor is stolen from us by human beings... Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever” (pg. 7).	I think Major, the old pig, wants the animals to be upset that Mr. Jones takes their eggs and milk. I never thought about how chickens feel when their eggs are taken. It shows how the animals feel about their lives under human control. They work hard, but Mr. Jones takes most of what they produce, leaving them hungry and overworked. The animals believe that if they get rid of Mr. Jones, they can keep the fruits of their labor and live better lives. This idea connects to the thematic idea of power because it shows how those in power, like Mr. Jones, exploits others for their own benefit. Major is trying to rile them up in order to motivate them. I know it also connects to how the proletariat felt under the Czar’s rule.
Ch. 3-4 Conflict Theme	Four legs good, two legs bad” (pg. 19).	This quote is important because it shows how the animals need a simplified form of their beliefs. They can’t seem to learn to read and retain their learning. Clover can’t even put together words. It is also important because it gives the animals something to believe: that animals are good but people are bad. This helps to unite them during this time in the story. I think the most important aspect of this part of the book is that it is showing there will be divisions between the animals. Some animals, the pigs, can read easily. Other animals can’t read at all. I think the “dumber” animals may be taken advantage of later. This will relate to the idea of intelligence equals power or knowledge equals power. The more educated animals will have more power over the uneducated ones.

Under no circumstance are you permitted to use AI or any form of smart technology in ANY capacity for this assignment. This work will be checked for plagiarism and AI usage, to which all work will be rejected if it’s revealed that this work is not entirely and authentically of your own creation.

Expectations for English 9 Honors

Before you take the time to complete this assignment, please be sure that you are absolutely committed to the following. If you cannot or do not want to work at the Honors level, you should speak with your counselor before school starts.

To be successful in English 9 Honors, you must have:

- A strong work ethic is necessary for success
- A willingness to read classical literature outside of class
- A desire and love of learning
- Openness to contribute in class
- Respect of other students’ opinions