Honors English 9 **Summer Reading Assignment**

In preparation for the beginning of the school year, you must complete a series of summer reading assignments. These assignments are required of all Honors freshmen. **Please follow directions carefully.** All work is due our Monday, August 31st.

Students who use AI for any portion of this work, including tools that fix/enhance writing like Grammarly, will be turned in to Mr. Harris for an Honor Code violation, be required to re-do the summer reading, and receive only UP TO HALF CREDIT.

Assignment #1

You will need to purchase the following book:

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Preferred Version =https://www.amazon.com/Kill-Mockingbird-Harper-Lee/dp/0060935464/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3I9C2LDNDDGE3&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.MTrfEJneLMbYAUjIwF2q_94YGtGX8vuVN7XOL6LeP3IhbaMnFZpoJcvGxG5yHJm4vkqnJcqSgb8lr8NnKcg846lZ0pMT7yUR2prU3XweCixdDuptzBME3n7ZnN4Hgd2bAXo74tDtBxQ9yIs6n4iZ4zk4Z4eHGleaySAZly599M9r2Bov4mnHGcR3OPfzWvaZDr_mR7v6k7VQwoCF5MW8s1MdvlKQ1Nh27MTliRdQ250.u7mMThUEOmTMFr4lyqECk5VKz0iDyGbk7KR6uu2a_do&dib_tag=se&keywords=to+kill+a+mockingbird+by+harper+lee&qid=1779892958&sprefix=To+Kill+%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-1

To Do……

1) First, complete the pre-reading journal **before beginning the novel (see below)**.
2) Complete the charts as you read.

Pre-Reading Journal – Type please

Look up the word empathy and record its definition. Now define empathy in your own words.

Describe a moment in your life where you showed empathy. What was the situation? Why were you empathetic? How did the person/people around you respond to your empathy? Did you gain any personal knowledge or insight from the empathy you showed in the situation? PLEASE TYPE THIS PARAGRAPH. RESPOND IN AT LEAST 250 WORDS. You do not have to answer all of these questions, but you should write a thorough, meaningful paragraph.

While You Read – Complete the charts (separate document) - Type or neatly hand write

Record examples, **with page numbers**, of times in the novel when people act with hate, prejudice and ignorance, AND when they act with nobility, heroism or justice. Please use direct text evidence (lines from the book). Please substitute the word negro for any quotes/lines with the N-word present.

After you complete the Book and Chart –

Reflecting on your pre-reading journal, type a paragraph about who in the novel shows the most empathy OR who in the book learns the most about what empathy is. Please integrate at least one quote (line from the book, in quotation marks) into your paragraph and analyze how it relates to who is empathetic or who learns the most about empathy. This paragraph must be at least 250 words.

Continued…..

Assignment #2

Below you will find a short description for each of Hoban's Core Values. Hoban students, faculty and staff are guided in their learning and faith by these core values.

Holy Cross Core Values

1. **Reliance on Divine Providence:** People are called to put their trust in God. *God is there for all people, offering his help.*

2. **Excellence**: Individuals do their best all of the time, not just when they feel like it. *People should strive for excellence in all that they do.*

3. **Cultivation of the Heart as Well and the Mind:** How individuals treat others is just as important as what they learn at school. *The heart must learn and grow in step with the mind.*

4. **Inclusiveness:** Every person is a gift. People learn and grow from spending time with others who have had different experiences, upbringings, skin colors, religions, etc. *Individuals include all people as important parts of the fabric of their lives.*

5. **Discipline:** High school is a time for students to transition from being disciplined by others to learning self-discipline. *Individuals learn to practice self-control to reach their goals.*

6. **Option for the Poor:** Humans are called to reach out in love and service to those who are struggling. *Help the needy and/or suffering whenever possible.*

7. **Hope:** Trust in God provides hope for the future. *Always maintain hope.*

8. **Family:** Because people are all children of the same God, they are family. *People must treat each other with love and respect, as if they are family.*

9. **Integrity:** People should be honest and not change who they are just to impress other people. *Honesty guides decisions, including the choice not to cheat or to deceive.*

10. **Zeal:** People should be positive and enthusiastic in all they do. *Approach life and its tasks with energy and excitement.*

To Do….

Choose ONE text of your choice to read (cannot be *To Kill a Mockingbird*!). The text **must** in some way address, embody, or teach something about a Holy Cross Core Value (see above). Consider focusing on the italicized theme which accompanies each value. "Text" options include poems, short stories, novels, children's stories/books, fables, myths, parables, news (non-fiction) articles from a newspaper or magazine, biographies, etc. If it is a type of **written** literature, it is acceptable. See the list of POTENTIAL RESOURCES which are included at the end of this assignment.

Read your chosen piece of literature and then write a paragraph that explores, explains, analyzes, or simply offers a reaction to the Holy Cross Core Value present in the text.

Your paragraph should be a **minimum** of seven sentences. The paragraph should begin with a topic sentence which expresses the main idea of the paragraph. A good topic sentence will include the title and author of what you read, the Holy Cross Core value you are discussing, and a main idea.

Sample Topic Sentence:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck comments upon the core value of inclusiveness through its discussion of characters who feel sadness or loneliness because they are black, female, or handicapped.

Important things to know as you write:

1. Novel/Biography titles are italicized. Article, poem and short story titles go in quotation marks.
2. Avoid writing in the 2nd person (so avoid using the pronouns you and your).
3. Please **type** your paragraph using 12 pt font, double spaced, 1" margins.
4. Consider incorporating direct words from the reading into your paragraph. Any phrasing you use word-for-word should go into quotation (" ") marks.
5. In the left-hand corner, type an MLA-correct heading. Example =

Your name

Teacher's name (Ms. Adaway)

Honors English period ____

Due Date (August 31, 2026)

Assignment #3 – PSAT prep (found with the Mockingbird Charts)

Define the vocabulary words in your OWN handwriting. After recording your definitions, write a short paragraph (5 or more sentences) about yourself that incorporates at least 5 of the vocabulary words on the list.

All work is due at the beginning of your English class period on Monday, August 31st

POTENTIAL RESOURCES FOR FINDING BOOKS, POEMS, ETC. TO READ

Akron Library – GO TO **https://www.akronlibrary.org/account/library-card** for a free library card
Use your Akron library card to access additional resources with Libby = **https://help.libbyapp.com/en-us/6103.htm**
Children's book suggestions which incorporate lessons about values = **https://www.goodnet.org/articles/25-childrens-books-that-teach-kids-meaningful-values**
News articles can be found at various sites including https://www.beaconjournal.com/news/ and https://www.nytimes.com/
Young Adult Novel Resource = https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/6654.Young_Adult_Books_That_Kids_With_Values_Can_Read
Poetry Suggestions = https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/children/lesson/