

Honors English 11 Summer Reading Project

Students taking **Honors English 11** are required to read **TWO** literary texts over the summer.

(1) For your first text, please read ***THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON***. As you read, please annotate the text according to the directions below.

ANNOTATION GUIDE FOR DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

English studies in junior year focus upon systems of control as well as manifestations of monstrosity on both the literal and figurative level. While you are reading and annotating your text, focus on the following thematic ideas and literary elements:

- Elements related to the nature of humanity and human behavior
- Elements related to societal expectations, including rebellions against the societal order
- Elements related to corruption at both the individual and societal level
- Attempts by characters to control the environment
- Exploration of monstrosity within the characters or world at large
- Tension between optimism and pessimism regarding humanity and the future of humanity
- Significant symbolism and metaphor related to human nature

(2) For your second text, please read a book of **PERSONAL CHOICE**. Take this assignment as an opportunity to read a book that interests you. You may choose a fiction or non-fiction text; however, if choosing non-fiction, make sure your book has a basic narrative structure like a biography, narrative history, or memoir as you will need to annotate and evaluate the book for its use of literary devices. Do not choose a 'how to' guide or informational book. Additionally, you cannot choose a book studied in a previous English or Language Arts class. Students are not allowed to read any of the books which will be covered as part of the Honors English 11 curriculum. Make sure your selection is appropriate for study in a high school setting based on reading level, use of literary devices, and subject matter.

DO NOT READ THE FOLLOWING

Beowulf – *Othello* by William Shakespeare – *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe – *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen – *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell

ANNOTATION GUIDE FOR BOOK OF CHOICE

As part of the honors curriculum, students will analyze the ways in which literary devices work together to communicate ideas. Texts will be evaluated for their narrative sophistication as well as their unique contribution to literature as a whole. While you are reading and annotating your text, focus on the following thematic ideas and literary elements:

- The structural choices made by authors to communicate the plot
- How authors use literary devices like metaphor and symbolism to communicate theme
- The ways in which authors use dialogue, internal monologue, and action for the sake of characterization
- The choice of words used by authors to communicate tone and mood
- Notable or interesting uses of language that seem quotable or memorable
- Moments of juxtaposition and ambiguity designed to invite the reader to draw conclusions about events
- Compare and contrast the text with other texts you have read in the past to evaluate its quality
- Any element of particular interest that stands out to you as you read

Be prepared for a possible assessment and annotation checks for both texts on the first day of the new school year. Students will receive specific information about assessments for the summer reading assignment within the first two weeks of the new school year.

If you have any questions over the summer, please e-mail the English Department Chair, Ms. Cristina Paluch
cpaluch@stjohnschs.org