WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL
550 NORTH STREET
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Dear Ninth Grade English Honors Student:

We would like to wish you a wonderful, productive summer as you prepare for your first year at White Plains High School.

As an incoming English 9 Honors student, you are required to read one book: **The Pearl by John Steinbeck**. This text is connected to our ninth-grade curriculum by author and genre. As you read, employ close reading strategies while focusing on identifying literary elements such as plot structure, theme, conflict, and character development. **After reading the book, you will complete a written essay assignment centered on the thematic topic of HONOR.**

Your **SUMMER READING ESSAY** must include the following components:

1. An INTRODUCTION that includes:
    a. a thesis statement about HONOR that applies to The Pearl by John Steinbeck
    b. the title and author of the book you read (If you do not read The Pearl, you will still be required to submit the essay using another book you have read - the highest grade you may receive is an 80)
    c. connects your thesis to the texts

2. BODY SECTION ONE that includes:
    a. one example that connects the thesis to The Pearl by John Steinbeck
    b. evidence from the story that supports claim (direct and indirect)
    c. elaboration and explanation that provides connection and insight

3. BODY SECTION TWO that includes:
    a. a second example that connects the thesis to The Pearl by John Steinbeck
    b. evidence from the story that supports claim (direct and indirect)
    c. elaboration and explanation that provides connection and insight

4. A CONCLUSION that includes:
    a. a summary of the main idea(s) presented in the essay
    b. a connection beyond the text (how does the thesis apply to us?)
    c. a return to the thesis

FORMAT: Your essay may be typed or hand-written. If typed, it must be double-spaced, Times, New Roman, font size 12. If hand-written, it must be in pen, legible, and neat in presentation.

DUE: The essay is due on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**, and will be collected by your English teacher.

You may purchase your own copies of The Pearl if you wish or check out copies at the White Plains Public Library. The full text is available to read online on multiple websites that are easily searchable.

The Pearl: https://bpb-ap-se2.wpmucdn.com/learn.stleonards.vic.edu.au/dist/9/92/files/2016/06/The-Pearl-John-Steinbeck.pdf

For your summer reading assignment, it is important to submit only original work to maintain academic integrity and foster genuine learning. This allows you to truly showcase your unique ideas and creativity and gives your new teacher an opportunity to get to know you and your voice. Embracing your own voice not only strengthens your skills but also makes your learning experience more rewarding and enjoyable. We have high expectations for a successful year ahead, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Your WPHS English 9H Teachers