Killingly High School English Department

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Dear Honors English II students:

Welcome to Honors English II! This letter is to inform you of the expectations set for all students taking this advanced English class at Killingly High School. This is a demanding, fast-paced class, and students are expected to take responsibility for their learning and demonstrate initiative. Students should be prepared to read and write extensively outside of class, beginning with summer reading.

Summer reading assignments are due on the first day of school. Late assignments will be penalized. Any student who does not complete these assignments ***will be asked to reconsider their placement in Honors English II***.

In addition to the summer reading assignment given to all KHS students, Honors English II students are expected to read another novel this summer from the following list:

Things Fall Apart by Achebe, Chinua	*Slaughterhouse-Five* by Vonnegut, Kurt	*The Stranger* by Camus, Albert
The Color Purple by Walker, Alice	*The Bell Jar* by Plath, Sylvia	*The Sun Also Rises* by Hemingway, Ernest
The Joy Luck Club by Tan, Amy	*No Country for Old Men* by McCarthy, Cormac	*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Wilde, Oscar

Many of these books are available online for free from sites like gutenberg.org. Alternatively, you can seek out a copy from the school library or buy one yourself online.

You will respond to the text by typing (double space) or handwriting your responses, and you can keep them in a notebook, binder, folder, Google Doc—whatever method works best for you. Please mark each section clearly or begin each new section on a fresh piece of paper. You must complete the following:

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)
From the novel, write down 10 unfamiliar or challenging words. Then…

1. Note the page number.
2. Provide a dictionary definition of the word with the part of speech.
3. Write a sentence explaining how understanding the meaning of that word helps you understand what's happening in the book. If you write that you already know and understand every word in the book, you are not living up to the expectations of the assignment. You will receive a zero for this section.

Part II: Quotations (50 points)
From the novel, find 10 quotations or passages that you feel reflect an essential element of the novel. Then…

1. Copy the quote word for word. Place the quote in quotation marks and cite it correctly in MLA format with the author's last name and page number in parentheses.

2. Explain the significance of each quote. How does it relate to a larger theme? Does it reveal character traits or an important event in the plot? Be specific.

Part III: Review (30 points):
Write a review of the novel based on a scale of 1-10, a 1 indicating that this is among the worst books you have ever read, while a 10 would mean it was one of the greatest. Now, explain and defend your choice in a multi-paragraph response. You may discuss positives and negatives, the subject matter, your interest level, and so on. Explain whether or not you would read it again, and why.

If you have further questions about the course or summer reading, please email one of us at nable@killinglyschools.org, aklein@killinglyschools.org, or arockwell@killinglyschools.org. Please do not leave your questions to the last minute. Finally, be sure to share this letter with your parents/guardians so that they are aware of the requirements for the class.

Thank you,

Alex Klein
English Teacher

Annice Rockwell
English Teacher