

Summer assignment for incoming Honors English II students:

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As a student who has been identified as highly proficient in the use of the English language, you are expected to perform at a significantly higher level than most of your peers. This performance level includes time spent with literature. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to do some serious reading over the summer.

I expect you to read 4 – 5 books by the same author. The time spent reading will prepare you for the most significant assignment of your sophomore year, *THE RESEARCH PAPER*. Your paper will be a literary analysis of one author's work. To properly create this paper, you need to read several books by this author of your choice. Not doing this will significantly hamper your ability to perform well the first semester. If you think that it is unlikely that you will be able to meet these reading requirements, you should reconsider whether Honors English is suitable for you.

HOW DO I CHOOSE AN AUTHOR?

- A. The author needs to be researchable, to have numerous critiques on his/her work. You may want to take a trip to the library and do some preliminary researching to get an idea of how much criticism is out there.
- B. The author should have a significant body of work, having written 5-10 books and having a career that spans a decade or more.
- C. The author will likely appear on one or more "suggested readings" lists for college bound students. These lists can be found attached, at your public library, and online.
- D. A well-known author or a favorite author of yours, e.g., Danielle Steele or Nicholas Sparks, does not guarantee that reviews will be easily accessible or even favorable, though favorable reviews are not required.
- E. Suitable authors will often be used in English class textbooks. Hence, reviewing authors in your freshman text may be useful.
- F. Review attached information on authors.

NOTICE: Now is the time when we start to move away from the books written for younger audiences. Therefore, authors like C.S. Lewis, Nicholas Sparks, J.K. Rowling, and Tolkien are not acceptable for this project. Challenge yourself with a more adult reading selection.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO BESIDES READ THE BOOKS?

Because there may be months between the reading and the writing of your author, you should do some note taking.

- a. What format should I use to take notes?
 - i. Suggested formats:
 1. If you own the book, underline and write in the book or use sticky notes.
 2. If you are borrowing the book, initially use sticky notes and then transfer them to more permanent notes after finishing the book.
- b. What is noteworthy?
 - i. **Author's craft:** particularly well crafted passages, e.g., sentence style, word choice, figurative language
 - ii. **Connections** to passages you make from your personal life and general experiences
 - iii. **Themes:** What is your author trying to tell us? What are we supposed to take away from the reading?
 - iv. **Symbolism/Allusions:** Is there some part of the story that reflects a historical event or some criticism of humanity?

Suggested Reading

Selecting an author can be difficult. If you are not familiar with many authors, it may help to do a bit of research to find out what kind of story you can expect from each one. You need to take a couple of things into account:

1. Is the author researchable?
2. Does this sound like a style of writing or subject matter that you might enjoy reading?

This is a critical assignment that should be taken seriously. However, keep in mind that this is an opportunity to broaden your horizons. There is nothing like reading a good book while sitting on the beach, riding on a plane, or taking a road trip. This is the fun part; make sure you take the time to *enjoy* the literature!

Here is a list of literature that you will find on many AP suggested reading lists. You are not limited to this list of authors. You will find that most of them are researchable, though.

Chinua Achebe	<i>(Things Fall Apart)</i>
Isaac Asimov	<i>(I, Robot)</i>
Jane Austen	<i>(Pride and Prejudice, Emma)</i>
Ray Bradbury	<i>(Fahrenheit 451)</i>
Charlotte Bronte	<i>(Jane Eyre)</i>
Emily Bronte	<i>(Wuthering Heights)</i>
Truman Capote	<i>(In Cold Blood)</i>
Willa Cather	<i>(Death Comes for the Archbishop, O Pioneers!)</i>
Kate Chopin	<i>(The Awakening)</i>
Joseph Conrad	<i>(Heart of Darkness, An Outpost of Progress)</i>
Charles Dickens	<i>(A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations)</i>
F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>(The Great Gatsby, Babylon Revisited)</i>
Nathaniel Hawthorne	<i>(The Scarlet Letter)</i>
Ernest Hemingway	<i>(The Sun Also Rises, Islands in the Stream)</i>
Washington Irving	<i>(The Legend of Sleepy Hollow)</i>
Henry James	<i>(The Turn of the Screw)</i>
Herman Melville	<i>(Moby Dick, Billy Budd)</i>
Tim O'Brien	<i>(Going After Cacciato, The Things They Carried)</i>
George Orwell	<i>(Animal Farm, 1984)</i>
Jonathan Swift	<i>(Gulliver's Travels)</i>
Mark Twain	<i>(The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn)</i>
Jules Verne	<i>(Around the World in Eighty Days, Journey to the Center of the Earth)</i>
Kurt Vonnegut	<i>(Cat's Cradle, Breakfast of Champions)</i>
Alice Walker	<i>(The Color Purple)</i>
H.G. Wells	<i>(The Invisible Man, The Time Machine, The War of the Worlds)</i>
Elie Wiesel	<i>(Night)</i>
Oscar Wilde	<i>(The Picture of Dorian Gray)</i>
Virginia Woolf	<i>(To the Lighthouse)</i>

Some of these books are older classics while the rest are quite contemporary. If you do choose more recent authors, keep in mind that you may have a difficult time researching them. Again, your best bet is to do a little preliminary research before you commit to reading four novels by an author you cannot research.

Please email me at bshogren@d118.org when you have chosen your author. If you are struggling to choose or just have general questions, feel free to email them to me. I will be checking email periodically over the summer.

Good luck! I am looking forward to meeting your class again in August!