

2007 English Department Summer Reading Lists

Students can expect quizzes, essays, or other writing assignments in the first weeks of school on the listed works. For all grades, reading journals are a required part of the summer reading assignment. Specific journal assignments are listed on the other pages of this handout. Grades earned on summer reading quizzes, papers, or journals will count as part of the first quarter grades in each class.

NOTE: All journals are due Tuesday September 4, the first day of school. The essay for English III Honors is due on the second day of class.

Advanced Placement English

- 1) Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*
- 2) Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

English IV

- 1) Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
- 2) Mary Oliver, *American Primitive*

English III Honors

- 1) Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* (The Norton Critical Third Edition is required.)
- 2) Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (Any edition will do.)

English III

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (Any edition will do.)

English II Honors

Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*

English II

Naguib Mahfouz, *The Journey of Ibn Fattouma*

English I

- 1) William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*
- 2) For the second summer reading, you may choose a book of your own. This cannot be a book you have already read in school; instead, we would like you to select a novel or a play that you have wanted to read but perhaps haven't had the time for. If you are at a loss for ideas, there is a list of suggested titles on the SMES library website.

If you have questions or problems meeting these assignments, please email Dallas Clemmons at dallas.clemmons@smes.org.

Journaling assignments:

JOURNAL: for themes, symbols, ideas, character development, passages of language, structure, imagery, etc. Use the front side of the paper only. RE-JOURNAL: Return to page one of your journal and begin reading what you wrote. On the facing pages, write additional understandings now that you have finished the entire work, correct earlier impressions, answer questions you had originally, etc.

Under no conditions may you use another student's work, or the work of a published or unpublished author and pretend it is your own. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, please email the department chair. Ignorance will not be considered an excuse. You must also include a pledge at the conclusion of each journal assignment that you have read the assigned text in its entirety and that you have not consulted outside sources such as Sparknotes, Wikipedia, or the like. Any references in your written work to the material found in such sources will be considered plagiarism. Please keep in mind that you are encouraged to record your questions and confusions in your journal; you do not need to consult outside sources for "answers."

Advanced Placement English

Anna Karenina:

Part One; read and journal (Narrative time = one week); Part Two; read and journal (Levin's story is approximately three months later after Part One; Kitty's story is approximately six months after Part One; Anna and Vronsky's story is eighteen months after Part One); Part Three; read and journal (Levin's story is five months after Part One, May – October; Anna and Vronsky's story is summer of the year following Part Two); Part Four; read and journal (For all the characters, it is the winter two years after Part One) Part Five; read and journal (That spring into summer); Part Six; read and journal (Summer); Part Seven; read and journal (A year later); Part Eight; read and journal (That summer); Introduction (vii-xvii) and Re-journal.

The Things They Carried:

This is a collection of stories that can be read as a cohesive whole. Your journal should include responses to each separate story as well as responses to the work as a whole. Stop after each story and write a response: some stories will require longer responses than others. As you write, think back on the stories that have come before and include them when you can in your new entries. When you finish the book write a rejournal that considers the book as a single work of art.

Your journals for AP English may be handwritten or typed.

Note: A completed journal for both these texts is a prerequisite for admission to AP English in the fall. If your journal is not complete on September 4, you will not be allowed to remain in AP English.

12th Grade English Electives (All classes read the same assignments)

Note: Please buy an 8.5 x 11 spiral, college-lined, one-subject notebook for your summer reading journals. You will keep this journal and use it throughout the year in English IV. Both journals for English IV must be handwritten.

The Things They Carried:

This is a collection of stories that can be read as a cohesive whole. Your journal should include responses to each separate story as well as responses to the work as a whole. Stop after each story and write a response: some stories will require longer responses than others. As you write, think back on the stories that have come before and include them when you can in your new entries. When you finish the book write a rejournal that considers the book as a single work of art.

American Primitive:

This is a collection of fifty poems by Mary Oliver. Skim through the entire book, taking notes in your book as you read. Choose twenty-five poems for your journal. **Handwrite** at least a half page response to each of the twenty-five poems you choose. You may include some paraphrase in these responses, but try for a variety of ways of responding: from specific analysis of language details to bigger connections and questions on theme, for example. After you have written these twenty-five entries, select the five poems you like the best and rejournal on these five poems. In your rejournal entries, which should be about a page for each poem, consider Oliver's use of diction, tone, imagery, figures of speech (metaphor, simile, personification, etc), sound (alliteration, rhyme, etc), rhythm, and form, as well as discussing the poem's meaning/message. You are encouraged to include personal responses to these poems. Be prepared to discuss your choices in class discussion.

English III Honors

Directions for Summer Reading Essay

The essay is due on the second day of class.

After reading *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, reflect on the purpose of each writer in how he portrays American society at a particular period in time. Think about the following quotation by author Bertolt Brecht:

“Art is not a mirror to reflect reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.”

Write a well organized, multi-paragraph, essay of about 5 to 6 pages in which you discuss how Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mark Twain create “hammer[s] ... to shape” human society. Discuss and evaluate what each author wants to accomplish through his fiction. Use quotations and examples from the novels with correct citations, and include a works cited list with your essay. Use the attached essay check list to remember the requirements of formal essay writing.

For this essay, you are attempting to discuss the author's attitude toward the society he is writing about. Pay attention to Hawthorne's imagery and symbolism as well as the events of the story. Pay attention to Twain's narrator, Huck Finn, to what he notices and to what Twain lets the reader see that Huck doesn't notice.

I am not asking you to compare these two novels. Instead, I am asking you to think about how novels (and any kind of art) reflect and comment on the society they depict. Set up a thesis about the role of art and then use examples from the two novels to demonstrate the validity of your thesis.

Directions for Summer Reading Journal:

As you read, keep a journal for each text of your thoughts and reactions, particularly about the topics listed below. Your journals will be checked for completion, and is for your use in class discussion and for the essay that you will turn in for a grade.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Journal

Topics to think about. We will be discussing these in class:

1. **moral reasoning:** Notice every time Huck faces a choice between right and wrong. Think about the reasons he gives for his choices. Examine what he bases his decisions on—how he makes his decisions— and whether he changes his moral reasoning as the novel progresses.
2. **critique of society:** Look up satire in your *Write for College*. Notice Mark Twain’s satire of the society he depicts in the novel. Examine examples of what he considers wrong and the literary methods he uses to create the satire.
3. **racism:** Is *Huckleberry Finn* a racist novel? Discuss examples that help you form an answer to that question.
4. **personal response:** Write about your own thoughts and feelings as you respond to the characters, setting, theme, imagery, diction, and the novel as a whole.

The Scarlet Letter Journal

Please note: You do **not** have to read “The Custom-House—Introductory to *The Scarlet Letter*”

Topics to think about. We will be discussing these in class:

1. **moral reasoning:** Examine the moral choices made by Hester, Dimmesdale, and Chillingworth. On what does each base his or her decisions? What reasons does each give for his or her choices? Notice changes in their moral reasoning as the novel progresses.
2. **critique of society:** Examine Hawthorne’s attitude toward the characters and toward the society he depicts in the novel. Examine examples of what he considers wrong and the literary methods he uses to suggest what he approves of as well as what he condemns.
3. **personal response:** Write about your own thoughts and feelings as you respond to the characters, setting, theme, symbols, imagery, diction, and the novel as a whole.

Note: A completed journal for both these texts is a prerequisite for admission to English III Honors in the fall. If your journal is not complete on September 4, you will not be allowed to remain in English III Honors. In addition, you will not be allowed to remain in English III Honors if your essay is not complete by the second day of class.

English III

The Scarlet Letter

In each journal segment, discuss examples demonstrating each of following three topics. Each journal segment should be 4-5 pages long. Type or write clearly on only one side of the paper.

1. **moral reasoning:** Examine the moral choices made by Hester, Dimmesdale, and Chillingworth. On what does each base his or her decisions? What reasons does each give for his or her choices? Discuss changes in their moral reasoning as the novel progresses.
2. **critique of society:** Discuss Hawthorne’s attitude toward the characters and toward the society he depicts in the novel. Examine examples of what he considers wrong and the literary methods he uses to suggest what he approves of as well as what he condemns.
3. **personal response:** Write about your own thoughts and feelings as you respond to the characters, setting, theme, symbols, imagery, diction, and the novel as a whole. Do not summarize the plot.

Journal Segments: Each journal segment should be 4-5 pages long.

You do **not** have to read “The Custom-House—Introductory to *The Scarlet Letter*

1. Chapters 1-6
2. Chapters 7-12
3. Chapters 13-19
4. Chapters 20-24

English II Honors

Never Let Me Go

Note: Please use an 8 ½ x 11” single-subject, spiral-bound, college-ruled notebook for your summer reading journal. You can continue to use this journal throughout the year in English 2 Honors *only if it meets these requirements.*

Read Part One, Chapter One-Nine, freewriting your thoughts and reactions after each chapter by hand in your journal (**do not type your entries**). Freewrite without stopping until you fill the whole right side of the page. Do not stop or even pause in your writing. Do not go back to reread or to correct your mistakes. If you can’t think of anything to write, write “I can’t think of anything to write” or repeat the last word or phrase until you think of something new to write. Write as if someone is chasing you, and you have to get away. After all, the faster you write and the less you pause, the sooner you finish and go to the beach.

Reread your Part One journals to choose your best page or so of writing (I suggest, for example, about 1/3 page from your best three pages). Underline or highlight this chosen writing.

Read Part Two, Chapter Ten-Sixteen, and again freewrite a full page after each chapter. This time, however, begin with either a brief quotation from the chapter you are journaling on or a short quotation from your chosen writing from Part One.

Reread your Part Two journals to choose once again another best page or so of writing. Underline or highlight your chosen writing from Part Two.

Read Part Three, Chapter Seventeen through Twenty-Three, and freewrite a full page after each chapter. For this final part, however, begin each freewrite by thinking about the novel’s bigger connections with other literature you’ve read or other real-life experiences this novel makes you think about.

Reread your Part Three journals to choose one last best page of writing. Highlight or underline your selections for third best page.

Type up your best writing—rewriting the stuff you’ve highlighted or underlined from your journal—into double-spaced paragraphs of correct, formal English. Hand in your typed, double-spaced paragraphs along with your journal on the first day of class. Be prepared to share your journal and paragraphs with the class.

Note: A completed journal is a prerequisite for admission to English II Honors in the fall. If your journal is not complete on September 4, you will not be allowed to remain in English II Honors.

English II

Note: Please buy an 8.5 x 11 spiral, college-lined, one-subject notebook for your summer reading journals. You will keep this journal and use it throughout the year in English II.

The Journey of Ibn Fattouma

Note: Please buy an 8.5 x 11 spiral, college-lined, one-subject notebook for your summer reading journals. You will keep this journal and use it throughout the year in English II *only if it meets the above requirements.*

Read *The Journey of Ibn Fattouma* actively, with pen or pencil in hand, and mark passages in your book that you like or think are important. Try to mark at least something on every other page.

After reading each of the seven chapters, freewrite your thoughts (by hand in your journal, **do not type**) for ten minutes. Label each of your seven journal entries with the chapter title from the novel, for example, “4. The Land of Halba.” You may want to skim through your book notes before freewriting to give you ideas to write about, but resist the temptation to look back in your book once you begin writing.

When you freewrite, time yourself to exactly ten minutes, perhaps writing longer but never stopping before the full ten minutes is up. Write as if someone is chasing you and you must get away. If you get stuck for a moment, try repeating the last word or phrase until you unstick yourself. Write continuously while ignoring what you’ve already written, and force yourself to leave even your ugliest mistakes. Learn to love these, your very own lovely mistakes, rather than hiding them shamefully away under scribbles. Also, try for quantity, around 2 full pages for each ten-minute freewrite.

Finally, leave the left side of each page in your journal blank so that it is ready to receive more brilliant thoughts when we rejournal in class at the start of the year.

English I

Take notes in your books as you read. Type or legibly hand write your journal. Double space typing. If you hand write, use only one side of a page, and skip lines, and use a pen. Your grammar, spelling, and punctuation will be assessed holistically. Do not use a report cover or folder. Label each section of your journal, which will be collected on the first day of school. There is a 10% penalty for each day a journal is late. **Your journal for *Lord of the Flies* should be about 6 pages total.**

Chapters 1-4 of *Lord of the Flies*

After reading the chapters, type or legibly write two pages (approximately 600 words) responding to the topics below. Number your responses. Double space typing, skip lines with hand writing.

1. Describe your feelings and ideas about the characters, their situation, their actions, and anything you find interesting.
2. Write any questions you might have about the novel so far. Then, hypothesize. What are some possible answers to these questions? Be sure to include evidence that supports your hypotheses. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
3. Explain the personalities and the kinds of leadership offered by Ralph and Jack. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
4. Describe the roles and importance of Piggy and Simon. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).

5. Identify important objects and places and explain what they symbolize. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).

Chapters 5-8 of *Lord of the Flies*

After reading the chapters, type or legibly write two pages (approximately 600 words) responding to the topics below. Number your responses. Double space typing, skip lines with hand writing. (In total, your journal responses for this section should comprise two pages.)

1. Describe what you feel and think now about Ralph, Piggy, Jack, and Simon. Describe what you feel and think about their situation and their actions at this point of the novel.
2. Go back and read through your previous journals where you questioned and hypothesized. Answer or add any new conclusions you have come to regarding these questions.
3. Write any new questions you have about the novel. Then, hypothesize some possible answers to these questions. Be sure to include evidence that supports your hypotheses. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
4. Explain how Ralph and Jack have changed since the beginning of the novel. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
5. If you had to choose between Ralph and Jack as your leader, which would you choose? Explain why. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
6. Who believes in the beast and who does not? Explain what the boys believe about The Beast. Explain why they believe in The Beast. Explain how their belief in The Beast influences your opinion of the boys. Do you think you would believe in it? Explain why or why not. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).

Chapters 9-12 of *Lord of the Flies*

After reading the chapters, type or legibly write two pages (approximately 600 words) responding to the topics below. Number your responses. Double space typing, skip lines with hand writing. (In total, your journal responses for this section should comprise two pages.)

1. Describe what you think and feel about what happens in chapters 9-12.
2. Go back and read through your previous journals where you questioned and hypothesized. Answer or add any new conclusions you have come to regarding these questions.
3. Write any new questions you have about the novel.
4. Describe what you think the whole novel is saying about human nature. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
5. If you wrote about the comparisons between animals and humans in your first journal, reread what you wrote and explain how your opinion may have changed or strengthened now that you have read the whole novel. Use evidence from these chapters to support your opinions. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).

6. Describe your thoughts now about Ralph, Jack, Piggy, and Simon. Explain how what happens to each of these characters contributes to the theme of the novel. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
7. Write about the important objects that are symbols. What happens to them? Explain how each symbol contributes to the theme of the novel. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43). If you wrote about this question in your first journal, how has your opinion changed or strengthened through reading the ending of the novel? Use evidence from these chapters to explain your arguments. Quote from the novel to support your comments. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).

Journal Questions for free choice novel

Write approximately 300 words (one typed page) for **each** of the following questions.

1. Explain why you chose this novel. Explain why it did or did not live up to your expectations.
2. Explain the theme of the novel using examples and quotations to support your opinion. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
3. Choose two characters that are central to the theme of the novel. Explain the significance of both characters. Discuss the characters relationship to each other and how they help develop the theme of the novel. If the characters change during the action of the novel, explain how the change relates to the theme. Cite the page number for each quote –for example: (43).
4. Choose a passage (from a half to a whole page in length) that you think is particularly meaningful or powerfully written. Copy the passage into your journal, and explain the meaning of the passage, how it relates to the whole novel, and why you chose it.