

## Sophomore Honors English Summer Reading Assignments 2008

Congratulations! You have qualified to take Honors English 2 next year, a rigorous and challenging course. In order to prepare for our work in the fall, I would like you to complete your summer work thoughtfully and thoroughly.

Please read this entire handout carefully. Be sure to speak to me if you have any questions concerning your reading. I expect you to arrive to our first day of class fully prepared and ready to begin our work together.

Your summer assignment requires you to read Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

For *Pride and Prejudice* it is essential that you purchase the following edition:

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin  
A Norton Critical Edition, Third Edition  
Edited by Donald Gray  
ISBN: 0-393-97604-1

You must buy this edition because it includes material in addition to the text that we will be using in class. In addition, your text must be new because you are responsible for making your own notes in the book. You should not use a text that contains notes from a previous reader.

**Assignment: Read and Annotate *Pride and Prejudice*.**

**About Annotating:** Your assignment is to read carefully, always with pen or pencil in hand in order to *annotate your text as you read*. I have provided **guidelines for annotating on page 4** that you should refer to frequently as you do your reading. I know that Ms. Serki has asked you to annotate your texts all year long, so this task should not be new to you.

**Grading:** I will grade your annotations according to two criteria: (1) thoroughness and (2) your ability to explain your annotations to me.

Please keep in mind that **highlighting by itself is not useful or meaningful and will not count as annotating**. You may highlight if you wish, but do so *sparingly* and only after you have already done a first reading for comprehension. I will ignore highlighting when I look at your text, and instead evaluate your marginal notes and your ability to explain their meaning and significance.

I suggest that you also use **sticky notes** to allow yourself more room for your note taking.

**About using any resources in addition to the text:** It is very important to me that you read your books without consulting any outside resources, including those on the Internet (such as SparkNotes, etc.). These sources deprive you of the opportunity to think for yourself and to arrive at your own interpretations of your reading.

**Assignment 2: Passage Selection and Response for *Pride and Prejudice***

After you have carefully read and annotated *Pride and Prejudice*, you will need to go back to the text to select two passages that you find particularly meaningful and important. These passages may be as short as 3-4 lines or as long as half a page. They may be dialogue, narration, or a combination of the two.

Type each passage, noting the page number. After the passage, write from one-half to one page explaining why you selected it, i.e., why it is particularly meaningful to you. You may use the first person ("I") in your responses.

Do **not** summarize or paraphrase your passages. I am not interested in reading summaries of any kind; I am interested in reading your thoughtful responses to the text.

**REQUIRED FORMAT:** These passages and responses **must** be typed in Times New Roman front (12 point) and **double-spaced**. Work that does not follow these guidelines will be returned to you to be redone.

Of course, I hope that you will do much more reading on your own over the summer. Here is a list of recommended fiction that includes titles to appeal to all tastes. Happy reading!

**Recommended Reading**

**Agee, James.** A Death in the Family

A story of loss and heartbreak felt when a young father dies.

**Alcott, Louisa May.** Little Women

Ultimately a story about family love and devotion, the novel follows four poor sisters in New England as they experience the Civil War at home. The book presents the social customs, the economic conditions, and the health problems faced by people in realistic detail.

**Austen, Jane.** Emma

This most polished of Jane Austen's novels is set in early nineteenth-century England. Emma Woodhouse's manipulations of the characters around her in matchmaking lead to humorous surprises even to herself. It is truly a fine novel of manners and social comedy.

**Austen, Jane.** Sense and Sensibility

In this early novel Jane Austen craftily depicts the manners of the middle- and upper-classes of early nineteenth-century England. Her heroine Elinor represents sense, and her sister Marianne represents sensibility without sense. The depiction of these differences provides the entertainment of the novel in matchmaking and other events.

## **Bonfils, English 2H**

### **Bradbury, Ray.** Dandelion Wine

This novel is set in the summer of 1928 and chronicles the wondrous events in the life of a 12-year-old Midwestern boy named Douglas Spaulding.

### **Cather, Willa.** My Antonia

Immigrant pioneers strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies. The tale is told in flashback as a New York lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska, the challenge of survival and growth, and his friendship with a simple, memorable Bohemian girl.

### **Dickens, Charles.** A Tale of Two Cities

The French Revolution is dramatically recounted in this novel by one of the nineteenth century's most famous literary figures. Class warfare and the mechanization of industry are discussed both directly and symbolically.

### **Kinkaid, Jamaica.** Annie John

This fictional account retells a young girl's coming of age in Antigua. She grows from being a doted on as a child into an adolescence in painful conflict with her mother.

### **Malamud, Bernard.** The Fixer

Set in Kiev in 1911 during a period of heightened anti-Semitism, the novel tells the story of Yakov Bok, a Jewish handyman blamed for the brutal murder of a young Russian boy.

### **McCullers, Carson.** The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

In the 1930s in a Georgia mill town, Mick Kelley, a lonely girl searching for beauty in a world that is often bleak, seeks understanding from John Singer, a hearing-disabled man. Singer takes a room with the Kelly family, where he is visited by the town's misfits, who, like Mick, hope to find a sympathetic soul in Singer.

### **Plath, Sylvia.** The Bell Jar

The mental breakdown of a brilliant, beautiful, talented, and successful young woman is chronicled in this novel set during the 1950s in New York.

### **Remarque, Erich Maria.** All Quiet on the Western Front

This novel depicts the experiences of a group of young German soldiers fighting and suffering during the last days of World War I.

### **Steinbeck, John.** East of Eden

Steinbeck tells the saga of three generations of the Trask and Hamilton families in the early 1900s in northern California. Love, lust, greed, and vengeance are explored.

### **Stoker, Bram.** Dracula

In this classic horror story, an evil count in Transylvania leads an army of human vampires that prey on people.

### **Wharton, Edith.** The Age of Innocence

This period-piece novel portrays New York society in the 1870s, when money counts for less than manners and morals.

See the next page for **Guidelines for Annotating Texts**

### Guidelines for Annotating Texts

**There is not one “right” way to annotate as you read, but there are some general principles for good annotating that you should keep in mind. You should write marginal notes in the text that consist of questions and comments, essentially your dialogue with the text itself.**

**Review this guide frequently as you are completing your assigned reading. Close reading takes more time than quick, superficial reading, but doing so will save you time and anxiety later as you prepare to discuss and write about the literature.**

1. **Always read with a pen or pencil in hand.** Doing so helps you to focus and to stay alert.
2. Always **take your time** as you begin a new text. Ask yourself many questions as you begin: Who is telling the story? What is the setting? What details does the author provide about characters when they are first introduced?
3. **Abbreviate** as you take notes. Use **initials** for characters. Try to develop your own set of **symbols** for important ideas. For example, you might place a **star** next to key passages.
4. Keep a **list of characters** and their **key traits**. A good place for this is the inside cover of the book. You can add brief notes to your lists as you read.  
  
\***Front and back covers** are also good places to jot notes about important settings, key ideas, and key page numbers.
5. Look for **patterns** as you read. What ideas do you see repeated? What **connections** can you draw between different characters and different events?
6. Try to make a **quick note on the top of each page** indicating the most important point there.
7. Think of a **memorable title for each chapter** and write it down at the beginning. (You can still make your own title even if the author has provided one.)
8. On the first or last page of a chapter, **bullet-point the key events** as a summary of that section.
9. **Use question marks.** Be alert to what puzzles you. Good readers do not zip along without stopping to monitor their comprehension. They stop to think and to note what they don't understand. You should also write down questions you would like to discuss.
10. Of course, you should always pay attention to **vocabulary**. A strong vocabulary comes from *reading*, not from memorizing lists. Your text includes many words that will be new to you. Circle or star these words. Try to determine meaning from the context. If you are really puzzled by a word, look it up.

**I suggest that you use sticky notes in addition to writing marginal notes in order to give you enough space for your thoughts.**