

HONORS ENGLISH 9

2018-2019 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS – Williamsburg High School

Welcome to Honor's English 9! I'm excited that you've chosen to expand your reading and writing knowledge through various forms of texts. In order to introduce you to the kind of reading we will be doing in class, you are required to complete a summer assignment that you may find challenging but hopefully enjoyable as well. You **must purchase** these texts because having your own text will allow you to practice the close and active reading strategies. Also, you will need the text for your in-class essay test. Feel free to email me with any questions at ogle_s@burgschools.org.

STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

The goal of this summer reading project is to help you develop lifelong literacy skills by guiding you to interesting, thought provoking books you can read independently over the summer. You will read a piece of canonized literature. We hope that you will enjoy reading this book and make reading a part of your daily life. You will be reading a required text *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.

SUMMER READING GUIDELINES

Assignments are due to Mrs. Ogle on the second day of school and will not be taken late. You will be tested over the required reading the first week of school. This assignment is not to be taken lightly. We understand that a lot of time and commitment are given on your

“As happens sometimes, a moment settled and hovered and remained for much more than a moment.” –John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*

behalf and we want to give the appropriate grade for that time. Therefore, if you do not do a summer reading project, your grade will suffer greatly. If you have questions over the summer, feel free to email me at ogle_s@burgschools.org and I will try to respond to your emails in a timely manner. You may borrow from a public library, but I recommend you purchase your book and become familiar with the text by highlighting, note-taking, and flagging important information. You will need the text for your in-class essay exam.

REQUIRED READING: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Read *Of Mice and Men* accurately and thoroughly. Annotate as you read. You will want to take notes of important characters, events, and themes in this novel. While these notes will not be collected, you will be given a comprehensive test over the entire novel on the second day of school. You may want to use Quizlet to study before your comprehensive test.

ASSIGNMENT

For **TWO** of these eight topics:

1. Loneliness and Isolation
2. Dreams, Hopes, and Plans
3. Innocence
4. Powerlessness
5. Male Friendships
6. Prejudices
7. Freedom vs. Confinement
8. Women and femininity

Please, complete a *Say, Mean, Matter* chart (see example below) which will let you practice making the jump from what Steinbeck has written to significance. In thoughtfully connecting technique and meaning, you are making the move to better reading, writing, and thinking. You need **seven** entries in each chart. **Charts must be handwritten** and will be necessary for the in-class Literary Analysis Paper you will write when you return to school. So, to be clear, you will **have TWO charts with SEVEN entries in each**. Additionally, you should take notes for yourself. Your notes should include important events in the plot (with page numbers), character descriptions, and character development. All charts will be collected while your private notes will not.

What does it say?

Find a significant quotation from the story that is “on duty”—carrying an unusually heavy load for the author’s central idea or interest. Copy the quotation in the **SAY** column or section of your response. Cite the quotation by providing the correct page number in parentheses after the quotation.

What does it mean?

In the **MEAN** column or section, paraphrase the quotation so that it is clear that you understand what it means in the context of the story. You should also indicate any *literary devices* used in the quote.

Why does it matter?

In the **MATTER** column or section, comment on why the quotation is important or significant to the reader’s understanding of the central idea(s) of the story. Explain how the excerpt advances the author’s complex meaning. As you analyze, you should be reading and writing “above the line.” If you feel like you are summarizing, stop. The “Matter” section should be the longest of the three requirements and demonstrate your ability to link technique and meaning. It is **NOT** a summary.

The following example is **ONE** entry in a *Say, Mean, Matter* chart on the theme of *Upper Class of the 1920’s* in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. You should have 2 different charts with 7 entries in each. Each chart will represent one theme from the list above. The example below is **ONE ENTRY**.

Student Example: *The Great Gatsby*
Say Mean Matter – Theme: *Upper Class of the 1920s*

Say	Mean	Matter
<p>“Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,’ he told me, ‘just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had” (12).</p>	<p>In Nick’s youth, his father told him to never judge anyone harshly because there are many people in the world who have not been raised with the same education, opportunities, or love that Nick received. Therefore, they may not have the ability to make sound decisions. (Characterization)</p>	<p>Fitzgerald chooses to begin his novel with this advice, showing that Nick, his first person narrator, will try to remain as objective and unbiased as possible as he relates the story of his neighbor, the wealthy Jay Gatsby. Fitzgerald’s repetition of the second person “you” emphasizes that this advice is meant for the reader as well as Nick. The advice is also significant because the reader must feel secure that the narrator is “telling it like it is” to the best of his ability. These words lend credibility to the story. However, the quotation also implies that there will be a struggle between honesty and deception in the story. Probably, all of the characters do not seek the truth or are as grounded in reality as Nick. Since the novel takes place in the extravagant era of the Roaring Twenties, it’s likely that some characters will be so greedy that they will resort to dishonesty.</p>