



Sophomore Honors English Summer Reading

Book Selections:

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
2. Independent reading selection : Choose a second novel or nonfiction book of your choice (grade appropriate, at least 200 pages in length)

Two assignments are due on the first day of school. I will not accept *any* excuses for work not submitted on time. Email me if you have questions about the books or assignments: hawks-ladds.cm@easthartford.org

Assignment 1: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (100 points)

Prepare a journal that contains a total of four entries. Entries 1-3 are mandatory. The fourth entry can be a response to #4 or #5. This assignment must be word processed, double-spaced, in 12 pt font. **Each entry** should be between 350-500 words. List name, date, class period, and FCA's at the top.

1. First Impressions: What are your thoughts and questions about the story? You might reflect on the characters, their problems, the author's use of symbolism, the title, or other ideas in the story. You must look to the text for clues to the answers to any question that you pose here; use close-text analysis to try to uncover the most likely answers.
2. Character Change: How does the main character change from the beginning of the story to the end? What do you think causes this change (catalyst)? What does the character (or reader) learn or realize from this change?
3. Significant Passage: Choose and quote a significant passage from the story (use parenthetical citation). Explain what you think the passage means as it relates to elements of the story such as character or theme.
4. Human Nature: What does the novel seem to say about people in general (human nature)? In what ways does it remind you of people you have known or experiences you have had? You may also write about stories or books you have read, or movies, works of art, or television programs you have seen. Use examples from the story to explain and support your thinking.
5. Good Literature: How successful was the author at creating a good piece of literature? Examine and identify how 2 or 3 important elements of fiction are crafted (such as characterization, setting, conflict, or theme), and explain why these were strengths or weaknesses. Use examples from the story to explain your thinking.

FCA1: Journal is complete and meets all requirements (follows directions) (40)

FCA2: Journal entries demonstrate careful thought and analysis and are fully supported with textual evidence (do not simply summarize the novel) (40)

FCA3: Appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation, and structure (paragraphs) are utilized (20)

Assignment 2: Independent Reading Selection (50)

You must:

A. Prepare an **oral presentation** known as a book talk to present to the class during the first week of school. The goal of the book talk is to “sell” your book to the audience.

Your talk must include the following information:

- 1) Summarize the book in 3-4 sentences (without giving the entire story away!). Make sure that you introduce the main characters, setting, and conflict(s). Do not give away the ending! You are advertising your book—not giving a book report.
- 2) Identify at least 3 real strengths and 3 real weaknesses of the novel. What about the book did you love the most? What could have been improved? What might dissuade future readers? What might attract them? For works of fiction, focus upon elements of fiction, like the effectiveness of the setting, the development and authenticity of the characterization, the reliability of the narrator, etc. Make sure you support these claims with information from the novel (quotes, specific examples, or explanations).
- 3) Identify the target reading group for the novel. Who would REALLY enjoy this novel? Is it designed for a certain age or grade level? Is the style of writing or the vocabulary too advanced for young readers? Is it too slang-y and pop-ish for older readers? Is it really for lovers of sci-fi, or more of a tear-jerking romance for the sappy at heart? Who would enjoy this book the most, and WHY? Make sure you support these claims with information from the novel (quotes, specific examples, or explanations).

B. Prepare a **book jacket** as a visual prop for use during your book talk.

Use your book jacket to “sell” your book and supplement your presentation. You will need a standard-sized piece of poster board, cut in half length-wise. You may use any color poster board that suits your novel. The book jacket must contain the following parts:

- I. Cover = Design an alternate cover for your novel. Incorporate important symbols, words, ideas, and images that accurately capture the themes, characters, and conflicts from the novel. Your cover must have color, and it must be an original design that you create (you may incorporate some aspects of the original cover, but this design must be distinctly yours). You may draw your own design or use magazine cutouts, internet images, etc.
- II. Spine = include title and author.
- III. Back cover = Here you should post your brief summary of the novel. This must be your original work (not taken or paraphrased from the novel), and should introduce the story in an enticing way without giving too much of the story away. Craft your tone and word choice here to suit your personal opinion of the novel (if you loved it, let readers see your enthusiasm; if you hated it, let readers feel your distaste in your words). You may also include

- an enticing quote or appropriate illustration here. Do not give away the ending!
- IV. Inside flaps = On one interior flap, list the three strengths of your novel and on the other list the three weaknesses you identified. Focus upon elements of fiction, like characterization, resolution, foreshadowing, conflict, etc. Regardless of how you felt about the novel, you MUST identify and explain three strengths and three weaknesses. Explain these in enough detail, with support from the novel, so that readers understand how and why these are strengths and weaknesses.
 - V. Inside cover (full-size) = Identify and discuss the target readers for this novel. What kinds of readers would really enjoy this book? Address such characteristics as age/education (the level of vocabulary prevents young readers from understanding and enjoying some books), maturity (some topics are just too racy or gory for young or innocent eyes!), hobbies (athletes may be more interested in sports stories than musicians), reading taste (lovers of sci-fi tend to shy away from romances), and gender (some books are really “boy” books whereas others are “girl” books). Make sure you include support from the book that explains HOW it targets this particular group of readers.
 - VI. Inside cover (full size) = be creative here! Include imaginary reviews, important symbols, quotes, ideas, or anything else you deem appropriate (Top 5 reasons to/not to read this book, etc.). You have some flexibility with what you design here, but you must have SOMETHING that is appropriate for your novel.

The layout and design of this project must be neat, clean, and appropriate. All your work must be SECURELY attached. Use the space wisely (don't have lots of empty space—fill this in with borders or designs), and make sure that your images are placed in the correct locations. This MUST be constructed on poster board (approx. 28" x 11", or a standard-sized poster board cut in half lengthwise). The grading rubric appears below.

Name: _____

Book Jacket Score Sheet			
Components	Requirements	Possible Points	Points Earned
1. Alternate cover	Original design that contains color and integrates important symbols and ideas	10	
2. Spine	<u>Title</u> and author	2	
3. Summary	Brief and enticing; tone reflects reader's evaluation	5	
4. Strengths/Weaknesses	3 of each clearly and sufficiently explained	6	
5. Target Readers	Fully identified in terms of age/education, maturity, hobbies, reading tastes, and gender; supported with information from novel	5	
6. Creative Interior page	Creative and appropriate	5	
7. Presentation	All elements are SECURELY ATTACHED on poster board in correct locations. Entire project is eye-catching and original	5	
8. Grammar and style	All textual components are grammatically clean; contains no fragments, run-ons, or spelling errors	5	
9. Oral presentation	Evidences preparation, appropriate volume, pace, tone, eye contact	7	
Total points		50	