

A note to new English 10 Honors students:

This handout outlines the reading and assignments that we expect you to complete over the summer in order to be prepared for English 10 Honors at SHS. Some of the primary goals of these assignments are as follows:

- Increase your experience as a close reader of literary texts.
- Improve your skills as an analytical writer.
- Engage in a private conversation with yourself and your peers within your scholarly community, not just about literature, but ideas, values — in short, the human experience.

Assignments are due by the deadlines listed below (late deadlines are also listed). Your teacher will give an in-class essay test two weeks into the term and will not accept any summer reading assignments after that day.

It would be worth your while to complete the summer reading and writing assignments before school starts. If you choose not to, please understand that you will be docked points, you will miss out on the benefits of summer reading, and you will be doing a lot of homework during the first weeks of high school. You will still be expected to stay caught up on anything that we are doing for class during those two weeks.

Assignments are to be completed on your honor and without the aid or assistance of anyone or anything other than your own amazing brain. Please contact a teacher if you have any questions or concerns about the summer reading assignment.

Good luck!

Mrs. Rabner (librarian)
Miss Frossard (teacher)
Mrs. Ellsworth (teacher)

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Assignment Deadlines

- By July 4th
 - ✓ Two blog posts on the reading of your YA novel (you do not have to be finished)
 - ✓ Two response blog posts to your peers
- By August 15th
 - ✓ Two blog posts on the reading of your YA novel (you do not have to be finished)
 - ✓ Two response blog posts to your peers
- By one week into first term
 - ✓ Finished reading both your YA novel and your novella
 - ✓ Your four blog posts and four response blog posts (**printed and ready to hand in**)
 - ✓ Your 30 annotations in your novella (**ready to show your teacher**)
- By two weeks into first term
 - ✓ In-class essay test on the reading of your novella (it is recommended that you bring your book and annotations to class)

**Any assignment turned in up to one week after the deadline will be docked 50% credit.
No summer reading assignments will be accepted after two weeks into the school year.**

English 10 Honors Summer Reading & Assignments

1. Select and read ONE of the following young adult (YA) novels:

Wonder by R.J. Palacio (20 copies): August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He's about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've ever been the new kid then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances?

Unwind by Neal Shusterman (447 copies): The Second Civil War was fought over reproductive rights. The chilling resolution: Life is inviolable from the moment of conception until age thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents can have their child "unwound," whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn't technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state, is not enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound. Together, they may have a chance to escape and to survive.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers (72 copies): Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout. As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies. He writes it all down, scene by scene, the story of how his whole life was turned around in an instant.

(Book descriptions taken from Goodreads.com.)

2. Complete the YA novel blog assignment:

- a. Visit shs.nebo.edu—click the "Library" tab—click the "English 10 Honors Blog" tab.
- b. Select your novel title. See "Tips for Writing a Good Blog Post" for help before you start writing your blog posts.
- c. **Write two blog posts** that each contain at least one Socratic Question.
- d. **Write two blog posts** that explore broader issues or make a connection.
- e. **Respond** to a minimum of **four blog posts** written by your peers.
- f. Copy your **eight blog posts/responses** and print out a hard copy to hand into your teacher. (Lost your posts? Hit "ctrl" "F" and search for your name.)

3. Select and read ONE of the following novellas:

The Turn of the Screw by Henry James (88 copies)

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka (90 copies)

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson (75 copies)

4. Write a minimum of 30 annotations in your novella:

- a. If you get the book from SHS or the library, complete your annotations on post-it notes. You may also make notes in your own hard copy or downloaded copy.
- b. Annotations may include a question, a comment, a clarification, or a connection. Please have some annotations in the beginning, middle, and end.
- c. Bring your annotations to class to pass off with your teacher.

Please note that copies of all required texts are available to be checked out from the SHS Main Office during the summer. The amount of available copies of each text are listed above. You are also welcome to buy or borrow your own copies. Any unabridged version is acceptable.

Tips for Writing a Good Blog Post

1. Create a descriptive, compelling headline for your post.
2. Write engaging content, using your best writing.
3. Write enough to comprehensively cover your topic and then stop – be concise, direct, and to the point.
4. Write what matters to you – be passionate.
5. It's okay to be informal – a blog is like a casual face-to-face conversation.
6. Find your own "blog voice" – word choice should be professional, respectful, warm, and accessible.
7. Edit yourself – look for redundancies, irrelevant anecdotes or anything that isn't vital or necessary.
8. Don't use tired clichés – be fresh and original.
9. Spell check before you publish your comments.
10. When appropriate, use bulleted or number lists to call attention to important points.
11. Use a combination of narrative and lists – mix it up from post to post.
12. Keep it short, but not too short!

Different types of Socratic Questions

Questions for clarification: Why do you say that? How does this relate to our discussion?

Questions that probe assumptions: What could we assume instead? How can you verify or disprove that?

Question that probe reasons or evidence: What would be an example? What is ... analogous to? What do you think causes ... to happen and why?

Questions about viewpoints and perspectives: What would be an alternative? What is another way to look at it? Would you explain why it is necessary or beneficial, and who benefits? What are the strengths and weaknesses of ...? How are ... and ... similar? What is a counterargument for? How does ... tie in with what we learned before?

Questions that probe implications and consequences: What generalizations can you make? What are the consequences of that assumption? What are you implying? How does ... affect ...? How does ... tie in with what we learned before?

Questions about the question: What is the point of this question? Why do you think I asked this question? What does ... mean? How does ... apply to everyday life?

Different ways to explore broader issues or make connections:

Write about how the book relates to history, culture, philosophy, etc.

Write about how the book connects to your own life or the world around us (text-to-self, text-to-world, or text-to-text connections).