

Honors English 9 Summer Reading Assignment

Your summer assignment is to read ONE of the novels listed below. Students may secure their own copy of a text or sign out books from the library or ELA teacher. The graphic organizers in this packet will set a foundation for follow-up activities you will complete during the first weeks of class.

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1860)

Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (2003)

John Knowles, *A Separate Peace* (1959)

Nicola Yoon, *The Sun Is Also a Star* (2016)

If you have questions about the assignment during the summer months and are unable to reach your teacher, reach out to English Department Coordinator Mrs. Lewis (lauren_lewis@hempfieldsd.org) or Secondary Curriculum Supervisor Mrs. Deisley at katherine_deisley@hempfieldsd.org.

A HARD COPY OF YOUR COMPLETED PACKET IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.

SECTION 1 – Author Background Information

Directions: To understand literary fiction, readers must be informed about related real-world details mentioned in the work, including time periods, historical events, and cultural norms, which inspired the author to write. In the box below, investigate your novel's author and come up with a short bio of the author, including what topics they write/wrote about and the things that influence(d) them (avoid facts like their birthdate, and find research about who they are as a writer). You should have at least 5 important facts that you learn about them. Research this online and ensure that you are using reliable sources* and include the name of each website that you used to conduct your research.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**** Look for resources from respected sources, government entities, or professional organizations rather than user-posted/edited material like that found on Wikipedia or Reddit.**

SECTION 2 – Characterization

Authors rarely state a character’s personality directly. Instead, they provide clues from which the reader may draw conclusions, a technique called **indirect characterization**. One method of indirect characterization involves examining what a character says.

Directions: For four characters in your novel, find something they say that provides key insights into their nature. Quote the text directly. You must include the **protagonist** (main character); the rest are up to you. (*Sun Is Also a Star* actually has two protagonists.) Then include what conclusions the reader can logically make based on these meaningful statements.

Statement (Quoted from text)	Page #	What this implies about character
SAMPLE QUOTATION from Atticus in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>		
“I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do” (128).	(133)	Atticus praises Mrs. Dubose because he believes the bravest people do what is right, especially when doing so is not easy or rewarding. He defended Tom Robinson even though he would face challenges and almost certainly lose. Atticus is also a caring father who wants his children to learn through example.
Protagonist -		
Character Name -		
Character Name -		
Character Name -		

SECTION 3 – Challenges and Choices

The Honors English 9 course focuses on the motif of “Challenges and Choices” because in life, everyone must decide how to respond when they encounter obstacles and difficult circumstances.

Directions: In the chart below, identify two challenges each of four characters faces, what choices they make in response, and what conclusions the reader can draw about their character from this information. As in the previous section, you must include the protagonist(s); the rest are up to you.

Challenges	Choices	Conclusions
Protagonist -		
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
Character Name -		
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
Character Name -		
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
Character Name -		
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.

SECTION 4 – Point of View and Setting

Point of view is the perspective from which a narrator tells the story. Your novel is written in first person, which means that the narrator is a character taking part in the action.

Directions: Briefly describe the novel's narrator(s). Then provide two ways the author's choice of narrator is important and/or affects the reader's experience. (For example, consider how the story would be different if it were told from another point of view or by another character.)

Name and Describe Narrator(s)
Why Important?
1.
2.

Directions: The **setting** (where AND when a story takes place) also plays an important role in literature. Describe the importance of one or two major settings in your novel. (Consider what impact the author's choice of setting has on the characters, the plot, and/or the reader.)

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SECTION 5 – Theme

Theme is the underlying message an author conveys through their writing. In the study of literature, themes ARE NOT single words or phrases; they are sentences with subjects and verbs. Thus, the theme of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is not “love,” but “Love is a powerful emotion that inspires people to behave boldly and strangely.” The theme of a well-crafted literary work is supported by all other literary elements.

Directions: In a 7-10 sentence paragraph, state and explain the most important theme of the novel you read. Provide two concrete details from the text to support your choice, embedding those concrete details in your response.

Sample Textual Evidence (from *To Kill a Mockingbird*): Hoping to instill empathy in his children, Atticus explains, “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view . . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it” (Lee 33).