

May 16, 2017

Dear Freshmen English Student,

As your eighth grade year is quickly coming to a close I wanted to introduce myself and welcome you to high school. On to the meat and potatoes of this letter: **summer reading**. No grumbling! There is extra credit too! As someone who **truly** loves to read I want to make this as enjoyable as possible and not cumbersome. My goal as a teacher is to help you enjoy reading in some way, shape, or form so...please check out the following!

**If you have any intentions of potentially taking honors you MUST complete the assigned summer reading. Students that do not complete the requirements will not be admitted into Honors English 9.**

To **ALL** incoming freshmen (College and Honors) please note there is an extra credit option available, in order to help you start the year off on the right foot!

**Extra Credit:**

This is an option available for any and all of my students next year. Honors students you are welcome to count your assigned reading for this too! The Mahoning County Library has a phenomenal summer reading program! <https://www.libraryvisit.org/our-happenings/summer-discovery/> Here you can sign up and actually get started now! Their program runs from May 1st-July 31st. **What you need to do create a login, log books, AND write reviews. At least a sentence for each.** PS graphic novels and audiobooks do count! Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

\* I believe you have other great community options, but I'm only looking for books. Upon registering with the library you get their goodie program:

**At registration** – get a Chik fil A coupon and a Mahoning Valley Scrappers game voucher.

**Read 5 books** – get an incentive.

**Read 10 books** – get your choice of a FREE book.

**Read 15 books** – get your name entered into a prize drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift certificate.

As for my class, **you get one extra credit point for every book you read and review, up to ten books (so up to ten points)**. So not only do you get a free book from the library, you get ten bonus points from me! **Be sure you print your reading history by July 31st.** I'm unsure if the program locks out once the Summer Reading Challenge is complete, so don't wait until the school year to print this! If you don't have the documentation, you will not receive any points.

***Honors: This is required!***

If you have any anticipation of taking Honors English you MUST complete this option. Be forewarned, I hold my students in Honors to high standards. This isn't meant to scare you, but please understand that you will be required to do additional reading, writing, discussions, etc. With taking Honors your goals should be to be valedictorian or to graduate with honors, to be on the path to take the Advanced Placement (AP) test in order to acquire college credit during your senior year, and/or you may be looking for an additional academic push because you enjoy reading and writing. Please remember you are making this choice to take this advanced course and will be held accountable.

From the following list **select ONE title to complete before the start of the school year.** On the Friday of our first week of school you will have an in class essay to complete!

**Option 1:** *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

<https://cleveracademy.vn/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/To-Kill-a-Mockingbird.pdf>

**Option 2:** *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

<http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/Esimpson/files/lord%20of%20the%20flies.pdf>

**Option 3:** *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

<http://www.secret-satire-society.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Ray-Bradbury-Fahrenheit-451.pdf>

**Option 4:** *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (Suggested if you are taking Honors History)

<https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/o/orwell/george/o79a/chapter1.html>

You do not need to purchase any books, unless you are a book hoarder like myself. The links provided are online copies of each text. Please find one you feel interests you, so that you can spend some time developing critical thoughts about the characters, plot, and theme within the text. If you would prefer a hard copy please check with the local library, the school library, or me!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me via email throughout the summer. I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you in the fall.

Enjoy sleeping in, sunshine, extensive video game action...and of course reading!

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“You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.”

— C.S. Lewis