

Sophomore Honors English

Summer Reading Project 2010

One of the requirements of Sophomore Honors English is an intensive summer reading program. Two novels have been chosen for you to read before the 2010-2011 school year begins. There is also a task you must complete associated with both of these novels. **Completion of the books and tasks is expected for the first day of school. There will be a test on the material.**

1. *Bleachers* by John Grisham

Task 1: For this book, you are to create a test based on the format listed below. Then you are to take the test and supply a complete answer key.

- a. **Part 1:** Write ten multiple choice questions about plot, covering the major events of the story. These questions can include conflict, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, or resolution.
- b. **Part 2:** Write ten questions that can be matched to choices. These questions should be about the main characters in the story and traits that are identifiable.
- c. **Part 3:** Locate 10 challenging words/terms in the novel. Write ten sentences with blanks for vocabulary so the test taker can figure out the meaning of the word by how it is used in context in the sentence. Make sure to include a list of words to choose from.
- d. **Part 4:** Write an essay question that requires a one-paragraph response from the test taker. The question should cover the theme or a message in the book.

The test and answer key should be typed. The questions should cover the events and literary elements from the entire novel.

Task 2: Complete the following essay:

1. Identify a central theme in the novel and find three specific examples from the novel to support that theme.
2. Write a 3 paragraph essay exploring the theme.
3. Format
 - a. Brief introductory paragraph – include an attention grabber and strong thesis statement
 - b. Proof paragraph – state the basic theme of the novel and use three examples to show how that theme is expressed. It's important to explain *how* the examples prove the theme.
 - c. Brief concluding paragraph

This is the first writing sample I'll have from you, so make a strong first impression!

More on the other side...

2. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

This is a famous novel written with lustrous and vivid detail about the prospective idea that young children would turn into savages if they were left alone and taken out of mainstream society. The boys are stuck in the unfortunate situation of being trapped on a deserted island with no adult supervision. What takes place says a great deal about the darkness that lurks within all mankind. *Lord of the Flies* should appear online or in the fiction section of any bookstore.

Task: There are twelve chapters in the novel. You must write an "Island Journal" for each of the twelve chapters. The requirements for the "Island Journal" are below.

- Must be written in first person (use I, me, my, etc).
- Must be written from your perspective as though you are stuck on the island with the group.
- Must be detailed, well thought out, analytical, and deep.
- Must be creative and interesting.
- Each entry must be at least one half page (I define a page as about 300-350 words).
- You must create a character for yourself. This is where the assignment gets somewhat tricky. I will allow you to be yourself unless you will feel more comfortable creating a NEW character (probably an English boy). It would be slightly awkward to write from a female perspective because you would be the only female on the island. Feel free to go that route if you desire. Choose the type of journal that will make you successful and comfortable.
- Journals may be typed or handwritten. (If typed, please double space! If handwritten, please make legible!)
- Journals must show knowledge of the novel beyond the surface. Try to attack some of the challenging questions the novel poses regarding the reality of what lurks beneath the surface of man's heart and soul. **Your journal should not be a summary of each chapter!**

***We will be using a journal throughout the year. It would be great if you used the same one from the beginning to the end. I would recommend (if you are going to hand write your entries) to buy a journal that you will be happy to use through the entire school year. Make it fun and lively!

You **MUST** read actively. To read actively, you should highlight important passages and write notes in the margins. Therefore, you should note all new characters and settings, descriptions of characters, introduction of conflicts, passages that identify theme, and important aspects of the plot.

Good luck with the reading and assignments. I look forward to seeing your work!

If you have questions, you can email Mr. Beirne at kbeirne@montini.org