

Summer Reading Assignment

Honors English I/II

Welcome to Honors English I/II 2022-23! If you have signed up for this course, you must complete the summer reading assignment. We give this assignment for two reasons:

- 1) It allows us to immediately dive into literary analysis with the summer texts as soon as the year begins, and
- 2) It helps to keep students reading and thinking during the summer. We completely agree that we all need a break, but reading and analysis skills are such an integral part of this course that keeping some low-level engagement even through the summer is incredibly beneficial.

This assignment is not a product-based assignment. It's not about going to Michael's or Hobby Lobby and spending a lot of money on something that will end up in a trash can by the end of the first quarter. This assignment is about engaging in reading, broadening your knowledge, and preparing to develop your analysis skills.

This summer we will have two main texts and a review of basic grammar concepts.

1. **The first text** is *How to Read Poetry Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster.

You can easily find this book in many forms: as a library book, used, as an audio book, as a digital/e-read text, or new.

The information in this book will be a helpful resource through high school, and possibly beyond. Read it and be ready to discuss it and use its concepts to analyze poetry.

The assignment:

Read *How to Read Poetry Like a Professor*

- a. Take notes over the key points of each chapter. These **notes will not be graded**, but they will be invaluable to you as a study tool for the test over the book and as we go through the year. There will be an open-ended question on the test relating to the concepts of this book.

2. **For the second text, students will choose ONE book from this list.**

- ***My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredric Backman**

- **Summary:**

Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy—as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's

stories, in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal. When Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa's greatest adventure begins. Her grandmother's instructions lead her to an apartment building full of drunks, monsters, attack dogs, and old crones but also to the truth about fairy tales and kingdoms and a grandmother like no other.

- ***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**

- **Summary:**

Ray Bradbury's 1953 novel *Fahrenheit 451* is set in a dystopian society that burns books in order to control dangerous ideas and unhappy concepts. The novel tells the story of Guy Montag, a fireman who questions the book-burning policy and undergoes extraordinary suffering and transformation as a result.

- ***Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann (nonfiction)**

- **Summary:**

Author David Grann takes readers back to 1921 and the lands of the Osage Nation. It was a time when the Osage gained notoriety as the wealthiest people on earth following discovery of oil under their land. *Killers of the Flower Moon* describes a series of murders investigated haphazardly by various law enforcement personalities until a young J. Edgar Hoover—barely 30 years old—sends a former Texas Ranger turned Bureau of Investigation agent to take the lead. Readers join Special Agent Tom White as he uncovers a conspiracy—a culture of killing—that exploited an outdated guardianship system prohibiting Native Americans from administering their own wealth.

*This book is based on real life events and should be a reasonable text for high school students.

However, there is an adapted version of this book for younger students (ages 10-14). It can be found on Amazon by searching *Killers of the Flower Moon: Adapted for Younger Readers: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*.

- ***Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan**

- **Summary:**

Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager—obsessed with music, food, and girls—but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior.

In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. But after Pino is injured, he is recruited at the tender age of eighteen to become the personal driver for Adolf Hitler's left hand in Italy, General Hans Leyers, one of the Third Reich's most mysterious and powerful commanders.

Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret, his courage bolstered by his love for Anna and for the life he dreams they will one day share.

The assignment:

Read your chosen text and .

1. Take notes as you read. Pay attention to
 - a. Main characters and how they develop
 - b. Settings and how they might be significant
 - c. Conflicts, both internal and external
 - d. Passages that have particularly strong use of imagery, figurative language, and/or detail
 - e. Themes you see being developed
 - f. Moments of thematic significance

***Complete this work by the first day of class. Prepare to take a test on the material and to discuss both main texts at length.

Students and Parents: All of these books are grade level appropriate according to the sources and curriculum we have used; however, please feel free to check reviews (www.pluggedin.com, www.commonsemmedia.org, etc.) and other summaries as you select your text.

3. For the third part, students will review basic grammar concepts and prepare for a test during the first week of school. Upon entering a high school honors English class, students should be knowledgeable of and skilled in these concepts. Analyzing elements such as syntax, pacing, diction, etc. and improving writing style is incredibly difficult for students who are still struggling with basic grammar and English language usage.

The assignment:

1. Go to the English Grammar Revolution website (<https://www.english-grammar-revolution.com/>).
2. Under the “Basics” drop-down menu, read through and study Parts of Speech, Phrases, Clauses, Word Lists, and Quizzes.
 - a. As you read through and study, click on all of the hyperlinks and study the information that is provided.
 - b. Use the Quizzes section to practice.
3. Under the “Sentences & Diagrams” drop-down menu, read through and study Sentence Structures, Sentence Types, Rules & Usage, and Punctuation.
4. During the first week of school, students will take a test over these concepts. Students scoring below 85% will go through a period of remediation and tutoring after which they will retest.

If you have any questions, you may email Mrs. Williams (kristin.williams@sunnyvaleisd.com) or Mrs. Barraza (maegan.barraza@sunnyvaleisd.com). Please keep in mind that your teachers are also on summer break and may not be checking email regularly. If you have any questions, it would be best not to wait until the end of the summer to ask them.

