

GARFIELD HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOLS

Honors English III

Ms. Di Padova (next year--Mrs. Guba!)
cdipadova@garfield-heights.k12.oh.us

Summer Reading Assignment

During the summer months, it is important to keep our minds active and learning. To prepare for the upcoming school year, you are required to read two novels and write two essays.

This will help us be able to:

- Lay a foundation for class discussion in the fall
- Establish writing skills at the beginning of the year
- Continue to develop life-long learning



The Books

- Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

You are responsible for obtaining the books. You may borrow them from the library, purchase them at a store, or order e-reader versions. Make sure to have a copy of each novel in class the first week of school.

All summer reading assignments will be submitted through Google Classroom. In order to access our classroom, follow these steps:

1. Go to classroom.google.com
2. Sign in with your school email/password
3. Click the + button in the upper right corner
4. Select “Join Class”
5. Enter this code: **2mm1t7y**
6. Click “Join”

We will continue to use this class throughout the year to connect beyond the physical classroom, so be sure you frequent the site.

The Letter

In order to have a successful working class environment, it is important for us to get to know one another. I am a big believer in continuous learning and am interested in learning about you, too! Your first assignment for Honors English III will be to write a letter to me introducing yourself. Who are you as student and teenager outside of class? What are your likes and dislikes? What activities do you enjoy? What books do you like to read? Tell me! You can find a letter from me to you attached to the assignment on the Google Classroom site. You can also find more detailed instructions on what to include in your letter attached to the site, too. Please make sure to open and read all attachments so that you are following instructions. **This assignment must be submitted no later than June 30, 2017.**

The Essays

Catcher in the Rye Essay--due by July 15, 2017

In a five paragraph essay, respond to the following prompt:

Critic David D. Galloway said, “Wherever Holden turns, his craving for truth seems to be frustrated by the phoniness of the world.” **Analyze Holden’s use of the word “phony”.** What does the word mean in the context of the book, and does Holden offer any alternative to phoniness? Is Holden himself guilty of being a phony? How does Salinger want readers to judge ideas about phoniness?

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Essay--due by July 31, 2017

In a five paragraph essay, respond to ONE of the following prompts:

1. Contrast Bailey and Maya Johnson in terms of their coping skills. Make additional contrasts between the older and younger generations, particularly Grandmother Baxter’s method of orchestrating her family’s murder of a rapist, Momma Henderson’s stoicism in the face of three young hecklers, and Vivian’s response to being called a “bitch.”
2. Relate the Maya character’s response to rape to current findings about victim dysfunction, loss of speech, refusal to testify, blaming the victim, guilt, irrational fears, and other long-term reactions. Discuss the efficacy of Maya’s return to her grandmother and to literature. Explain why the image of the caged bird epitomizes her situation.

Both assignments are posted to Google Classroom where you can find additional information about the requirements of each assignment. Be sure to check the site!

The Test

Finally, when you return to school in August, you will have to take a test over the content in these two books. This test, combined with your summer reading assignments, will be your first major grades for the year and will have a large impact on your grade for the first quarter. Please make sure you have prepared for this test. As long as you read the book and complete the assignments, you should do well. However, simply reading summaries of the books online or skimming through the material will not leave you in a good position to perform well. **As you are an honors student, I expect a high level of performance.** I know you can do it.

Final Thoughts

I look forward to meeting you and am excited to have a challenging, productive year. Expect to work hard and to put forth much effort in this class. I plan to push you! Please note, if you do not complete the summer reading assignments and do not pass the summer reading test, you will fail the first quarter of Honors English II. **If you do not maintain a “B” average, you will not move on in the honors program.** That means, if you receive an “F” for the first quarter, you must receive an “A” for the rest of the quarters, including the final and midterm exam average. Please take this under *extreme consideration* when putting forth your effort this summer. I wish you the best of luck with these assignments and am excited to read your introductory letter soon! Have a wonderful summer!