

## Honors English 11 Advanced Literature and Composition

Garfield Heights High School

Garfield Heights, Ohio

Robert Sharp

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Google Classroom Code: 1yd9zuk

Summer Reading Requirements and Activities: As mentioned in the Garfield Heights High School Registration Guide, there is a summer reading component to this class. The rationale for summer reading is as follows:

- During the summer months, keep the mind active in regards to literacy and literature
- Lay a foundation for discussion upon return to school in the fall
- Provide the instructor with an overview of your writing skills at the onset of the year
- The natural, innate value in reading, writing, and critical thinking

All summer reading assignments must be completed and submitted to the teacher on the second day after returning to school in the form of a shared Google Doc and a printed copy. I understand that your free time is valuable so I've designed a reasonable amount of work that will still permit you to do the things you want to, yet still prepare you for the rigorous curriculum that I have developed for next year. If this is too much work for you, it is highly doubtful that you will be able to handle the amount of work that you'll be exposed to next year.

Summer reading books:

*The Bell Jar*

by Sylvia Plath

*Into the Wild*

by Jon Krakauer

Both of these are interesting, well-known books. Both deal with young people dealing with listlessness and a society viewed as isolating, false, and ultimately unfulfilling. Jon Krakauer is a contemporary writer of *narrative nonfiction* who often writes of the dangers of adventure. Sylvia Plath stuck her head in an oven, killing herself in 1963 at the age of 30. Cheerful. Both of these books are stocked through the library. In addition, they can be had fairly cheap through online book vendors such as Amazon. You must have your books *in-hand* for the first couple weeks of the school year. There will also be a test over each novel when we resume classes in August.

Your summer assignments will consist of three essays. One essay deals with *The Bell Jar* and one essay concerns *Into the Wild*. One essay will have you thinking about both works. They are as follows...

### *The Bell Jar*

1. Esther, while feeling essentially misplaced in her world, does make attempts to find her place in it. Identify and discuss two ways that lend evidence to her trying to "fit in" or "make it" in a world that she fails to understand.

### *Into the Wild*

1. Throughout the novel, Chris is described as being someone who carries with him a very specific and personal view of society. His views of society, however, don't always match with those around him. Describe a couple of the differences in how Chris views the world as compared to those he knows or meets on his journeys.

### Final Essay

1. So, looking back at these books, one could say that while Esther is looking for ways to fit into the role that society has created for her, Chris is looking for ways to step out of the role that society has created for him. Esther is

looking to fulfill social expectations while Chris is looking to defy or reject them. What does this say about each of these characters? How do their perspectives and actions help us to understand their individual personalities?

#### Essay guidelines

- Essays should be approximately two pages in length, double-spaced, 11 pt. font, Arial.
- All work should be done in Google Docs. Share your assignments with me *as soon as you start them*. Make sure that I'm able to see and edit your document. That way, I can leave comments and check your timestamps.
- Include an introduction and a conclusion paragraph. How you construct the body of the essay is up to you.

· Each essay should be set up in MLA format as follows...

Your Name

Mr. Sharp

Honors English 11

10 August 2017

#### C.S. Lewis and the Magic of Metaphor

It's been said that it takes a truly momentous event to instigate the sort of change necessary in order to create truly wonderful art. When looking at the startling life of

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#### More suggestions for successful completion of summer assignments

- Don't wait until August to do these! Neither book is very long but each should be read slowly and carefully. If you rush through the work, it will show in the final product.
- Contact me. My e-mail address is located at the top of this sheet. I check my email frequently during the summer. Feel free to contact me with any questions you have about the assignments. If you're stuck, allow me to help you. I'm a teacher. That's my job.
- Don't print these at the last minute. Don't start the year out by giving me printer excuses; however valid they may be. Anticipate roadblocks.
- You will have to submit both a printed copy of your essay as well as your shared copy in Docs.
- Take a risk. Think creatively and don't be afraid to make your own interpretations.
- My intent is not to make you do 20 pages of writing over the summer. Shoot for 2 – 2 1/2 pages per essay.
- Obtain your books soon. These are commonly read in schools and you don't want to find yourself without a copy.

- Use your resources. Feel free to support and structure your understanding of these books with any resources you can locate, on the Internet or otherwise. Use resources in *conjunction* with the novels, not as a substitution. If you use a resource, or consult one, make sure you add a Works Cited page and parenthetical citations to your essay. *I regularly scan all the websites students use to get ideas. I'm also a paid subscriber to most of the paper mills available online.*
- Don't even attempt to hoodwink me with half-hearted work. I have a keen sense for work that is dashed off, not taken seriously, or otherwise completed well below your abilities. This is the first of your academic work that I'm likely to see. Impress me. These pieces of writing will give me an idea about who belongs in this class and who's hoping to just warm seats.

I'm greatly looking forward to teaching this class! The course, while rigorous, will prepare you for both the A.P. Examination and studies at the university level. Enjoy your summers and I'll see each of you in the fall.

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