



Spring 2013

Dear Hillcrest Students:

The Hillcrest High School English Department believes it is essential that you read over the summer in order to increase and develop your reading, writing, and vocabulary skills. Our desire is to give you the utmost advantage by preparing you for the ACT and SAT and for scholarship opportunities. **You are required to have the following novel(s) read by the first day of your English class. You will be evaluated on the content of the book(s) in test, essay, and interview format. In addition, you are required to complete the attached book card assignment. This assignment is also due on the first day of your English class. (Note: Students with English scheduled during fifth period second semester will be required to complete the summer reading tests and to turn in the book card assignment on designated testing days in August.) If parents or guardians have any questions or concerns regarding summer reading selections and/or assignments, they must contact administrators before July 31, 2013.**

Required Summer Reading

Pre-AP English 9	Advanced English 9	English 9
<i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien <i>Little Brother</i> by Cory Doctorow	<i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson <i>Homecoming</i> by Cynthia Voigt	<i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson
Pre-AP English 10	Advanced English 10	English 10
<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> by Frederick Douglass <i>All Over but the Shoutin'</i> by Rick Bragg	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> by Frederick Douglass <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak	Choose ONE of the following to read: <i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i> by Jay Asher OR <i>Black and White</i> by Paul Volponi
AP English 11	Advanced English 11	English 11
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald <i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls	<i>The House of the Scorpion</i> by Nancy Farmer <i>A Northern Light</i> by Jennifer Donnelly	<i>The Contender</i> by Robert Lipsyte
AP English 12	Advanced English 12	English 12
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> by William Shakespeare <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger	<i>Looking for Alaska</i> by John Green <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston	<i>Looking for Alaska</i> by John Green

HAPPY READING! Carefully study the plot, characters, settings, and literary elements such as foreshadowing and irony.

Sincerely,

Hillcrest High School

See assignment on back!

English Department

English Summer Reading Assignment

Books:

Please check your grade level for book titles.

Please have these selections read and assignments completed by the first day of your English class. Even if you have read these selections in the past, make sure that you have a thorough understanding of each work.

The summer reading assignment helps students to practice reading comprehension skills, to understand literary analysis, and to develop strong work ethic and study habits.

Book Card Assignment:

Complete the Book Card assignment for EACH summer reading book for your upcoming grade level. Use 3X5 index cards and hand write the following information in black ink. You may write on the backs of cards.

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I. Author's Background Card (one card)

- A. Include place and time of birth and explain the significant happenings in his/her country at the time.
- B. List other noted works by the author.

II. Literary Period/Country Card (one card)

- A. Place the work in the right country and the right literary period and/or genre.
- B. Define and comment on the literary period and/or genre and explain how this work fits—or doesn't.

III. Setting (one card)

- A. Include time, place—significance to the work (or not)
- B. Does the setting relate to worldly events the author could have experienced and are reflected in his or her work?

IV. Characters (three or four cards)

- A. List the major characters, along with DETAILS of each.
- B. The main character should have a card of his or her own.
- C. Write quotes that you can use in describing these characters.
- D. Include TRAITS—good and bad.

V. Book Themes (one or two cards)

- A. Identify the major theme(s).
- B. Briefly explain how it (they) is (are) developed.

VI. Literary Devices (one or two cards)

- A. Identify literary techniques used, including symbolism, allusions, motifs, etc.
- B. Explain how each is developed.

VII. Significant Passage (one card)

- A. Choose ONE passage from the book that “struck” you as memorable. Cite the passage in appropriate MLA format. Access <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> for an online MLA format guidebook.
- B. Explain why the passage is significant and relate its significance to the entire work.

You will turn in the Book Cards for each of the books on the first day of your English class. Also, expect an objective test on the books upon returning to school. **(Note: Students with English scheduled during fifth period second semester will be required to complete the summer reading tests and to turn in the book card assignment on designated testing days in August.)**

Again, we are excited about our upcoming school year and will see you soon!

HAPPY READING ☺

The English Department