

To: Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at Career Magnet Academy (CMA)

From: The CMA English Department

Date: May 16, 2023

### Summer Reading Assignment for English 1

Welcome to CMA! You have chosen to take advantage of the unique opportunity at CMA: earning a diploma plus through enrollment at Pellissippi State Community College (PSCC). Our goal is to prepare students for college readiness in an accelerated timeline, developing skills needed to meet the expectations for English 1010 at PSCC.

Keeping high expectations in mind, we must anticipate a high school experience that is designed to build strong work ethic and responsibility. Summer reading is part of those high expectations. Students are required to read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and complete the assignment expectations for each chapter section. The assignment is due within the first week of school, by Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, regardless of whether the student is enrolled in English 1 for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Students can turn in the assignment directly to Mrs. Hicks, the English 1 teacher, or leave the assignment in the front office.

All work should be hand-written on lined notebook paper. Do not type your responses to be printed or email them to the teacher. Please keep in mind that on-line resources are valuable tools to help clarify content, but they are not a substitute for reading the text.

If you would like to purchase your own copy of the novel, you may; however, we have copies available for check-out: free of charge. The novels will be available at the front office.

I'm looking forward to a great year and can't wait to meet you!

*Mrs. Hicks*

English 1

Career Magnet Academy

## Assignment Expectations:

Respond to all questions in complete sentences on lined notebook paper. Read the questions before reading each chapter so you can gather supporting details as you read. Use textual details to support your responses. Include the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence to cite textual details. In order to fully answer each question, your responses will require several fully developed sentences to show critical thinking about the chapters beyond a mere summary. Refer to the novel to support your ideas. A sample question and answer is provided so you can see the expectation is a fully developed answer that is insightful and analytical.

Be sure to look over your work to edit spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes before turning the assignment in.

**Sample Question:** Scout, the narrator, looks back on events during several summers of her childhood throughout the novel. How does the voice of an older narrator affect the story of a young child?

**Sample Response:** (I only referred to chapter one to avoid spoilers)

Within the first few pages of the first chapter, the narrator's voice of Jean Louis Finch is clearly established through the detailed descriptions of growing up in Maycomb. The mature reflection of the adult is a stark contrast to the childish behavior of Jean Louis as Scout, a young girl who would rather wear overalls than dresses, fight with her older brother, and fantasize about the town's recluse. In Chapter One, the dialogue between Scout, her older brother Jem, and a visiting friend Dill reflects innocent ideas, immaturity, and superstitions. For example, when the kids attempt to get Boo Radley to come out of the house, Jem suggests "it's sort of like making a turtle come out" (17). At Dill's confusion, Jem explains, "Strike a match under him" (17). Scout threatens to tell on Jem if he sets fire to the Radley house, showing she innocently takes him literally. However, the tone of the scene is very humorous as the adult Scout remembers how they argued over whether a turtle could feel anything. The adult perspective adds awareness to the scene as it develops the relationship of Jem, Dill, and Scout since the older Scout understands that these moments would not last forever. The adult narrator is able to impart the wisdom and lessons learned from their childish play that Scout does not recognize in the moment. Looking back, she is able to recapture the innocence they all shared that was threatened by the conflict of those times.

## Chapters 1-3: Building Background

1. Historical context is important to understanding the conflict of the novel. The narrator, Scout, describes the town of Maycomb as well as her own family and the Radley family in detail. Based upon the details Scout provides, what is your understanding about what it was like for Scout to grow up in this setting/time period as a Finch?
2. As Scout describes her first day of school, she introduces the reader to other families living in Maycomb County. According to details about Miss Caroline, Burris Ewell, The Cunninghams, and Little Chuck Little, what are you able to infer about these characters based on Scout's descriptions and the characters' words and actions?

### **Chapters 4-8: Childhood Fantasies**

3. The Radley family was first introduced in chapter 1. Throughout chapters 4-8, the children attempt to interact with Boo Radley (and it seems he also would like to interact with them). Describe three things that Scout, Jem, and Dill do to show their fascination with Boo Radley. How does he reciprocate their interest--What does Boo Radley do in these chapters? Look back at their interactions. What is Lee (the author) trying to develop about Scout, Jem, Dill, and Boo in these chapters?

### **Chapters 9-11: Conflict Develops**

4. These chapters introduce conflict into an otherwise safe, innocent childhood of Scout and Jem which is now threatened by emerging tensions in the town. Choose one of the scenes from chapters 9-11 and explain which characters are having problems (with either another character, society as a whole, or within their own consciences). Analyze the reason for the conflict and how it affects the characters involved.

### **Chapters 12-16: Boundary Lines are Crossed**

5. There are obviously clearly defined social expectations that individuals are expected to conform to during this time period. Aunt Alexandra emerges as the model citizen who best adheres to ideals about fine breeding and manners. Which characters defy society's norms and therefore threaten or go against the existing status quo? Explain how their actions/beliefs/speech/etc..... set them apart as outcasts.

### **Chapters 17-20: The Trial of Tom Robinson**

6. Summarize the main points Mr. Gilmer makes that present Tom Robinson as guilty of attacking Mayella Ewell.
7. Summarize the main points Atticus makes that present Tom Robinson as not guilty of attacking Mayella Ewell.

### **Chapters 21-26: Hypocrisy**

8. These chapters develop characters who behave hypocritically, presenting themselves as self-righteous. Choose a character (or several characters who seem like-minded as a group) and explain how they portray hypocrisy.

### **Chapters 27-31: Back to the Beginning**

9. The events in the novel are to explain, according to the first sentence in chapter 1, why Jem's arm was "badly broken at the elbow." Explain, according to the events in these final chapters, not only what happened but why it happened? Who is to blame?
10. Choose three excerpts from these last five chapters and explain how each one is connected to one of the themes in the novel.