

Dear Rising 9th Grade Student and Families:

Congratulations on wrapping up your time in middle school! We are looking forward to seeing you at Fulton High School in August. If you are receiving this packet, you have been recommended for Honors English !!

When you choose to take an honors level course, you are signing up for several things.

1. A greater amount of rigor and academic challenge
2. A fast pace
3. Engaging discussion and transmission of ideas
4. More work
5. As a result of #4, you will be significantly more prepared for entering college. Research shows that students who take the challenges of honors and AP perform better in college than their CP (college prep) counterparts.

You will be required to read carefully and to write critically. We will study important literary works from different places and different times.

Students in high school read a lot. If reading isn't a habit of yours, you might want to develop this habit now. Don't be afraid to challenge yourself with an honors class; yes, it is more work, but we also have fun. If you bring a strong work ethic and a good attitude, then you will succeed, and in turn, prepare yourself well for a bright future.

Fulton has developed a strategic program for each year of honors and AP designed to help you be successful as you progress through each level, with the amount of work required to gradually increase. We follow Knox County guidelines for each summer level's work. For example, we ask you to read one novel before English I, two before English II and more before AP.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. You can e-mail English teacher Keith Leonard at keith.leonard@knoxschools.org.

Books: We recommend purchasing the book you choose to read, as it may be needed for an extended period of time, and we encourage you to write notes directly on the pages. A great place to look is McKay's Used Bookstore, and you can also order new or used copies from Amazon.com. Buying your books is NOT required, so if purchasing them is not possible, it is acceptable to use a copy from the library.

**** You will be required to read a packet of background information on Greek mythology and a choice novel. You will also be asked to answer questions about these your novel, and finally produce a creative writing assignment. All these assignments will constitute two major grades for this class at the start of the semester, so please take this seriously. Students who do not do the assignments may be reassigned to a lower level English course.

Task 1. Choose one of the following books:

You will select one novel from the list and answer the questions that follow in this packet. All of the books below are frequently cited on the Advanced Placement exam students will take as 11th or 12th graders. Novel descriptions are taken from Goodreads.com and CommonSense Media.

Great Expectations - Charles Dickens

In what may be Dickens's best novel, humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.

Parental Warning - Graphically depicts the brutal conditions of the poor during Victorian England.

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte

Orphaned as a child, Jane has felt an outcast her whole young life. Her courage is tested once again when she arrives at Thornfield Hall, where she has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet kind spirit. She falls in love. Hard. But there is a terrifying secret inside the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall. Is Rochester hiding from Jane? Will Jane be left heartbroken and exiled once again?

Parental Guidance - Parents need to know that the novel does not contain "mature themes" in the modern sense, but it does require a mature reader to comprehend the characters' complex relationships and inner turmoil, and to take in the troubling events that occur: Children are abused and neglected; half of the students of Lowood School die of typhus, while the other half are malnourished and cold. Mental illness and adulterous affairs figure in the story, as well.

Last of the Mohicans - James Fenimore Cooper

The wild rush of action in this classic frontier adventure story has made *The Last of the Mohicans* the most popular of James Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales*. Deep in the forests of upper New York State, the brave woodsman Hawkeye (Natty Bumppo) and his loyal Mohican friends Chingachgook and Uncas become embroiled in the bloody battles of the French and Indian War. The abduction of the beautiful Munro sisters by hostile savages, the treachery of the renegade brave Magua, the ambush of innocent settlers, and the thrilling events that lead to the final tragic confrontation between rival war parties create an unforgettable, spine-tingling picture of life on the frontier. And as the idyllic wilderness gives way to the forces of civilization, the novel presents a moving portrayal of a vanishing race and the end of its way of life in the great American forests.

The Joy Luck Club - Amy Tan

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television 'family'. But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people did not live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.

Parental Warning - Violence, scene of suicide attempt by pills

Catcher in the Rye - JD Salinger

The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. He leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it. There are many voices in this novel: children's voices, adult voices, underground voices-but Holden's voice is the most eloquent of all. J.D. Salinger's classic novel of teenage angst and rebellion was first published in 1951. The novel was included on Time's 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels written since 1923.

Parental Warning - Instances of swearing, sexual and drug/alcohol references.

Lovely Bones - Alice Sebold

The Lovely Bones is the story of a family devastated by a gruesome murder -- a murder recounted by the teenage victim. Upsetting, you say? Remarkably, first-time novelist Alice Sebold takes this difficult material and delivers a compelling and accomplished exploration of a fractured family's need for peace and closure. The details of the crime are laid out in the first few pages: from her vantage point in heaven, Susie Salmon describes how she was confronted by the murderer one December afternoon on her way home from school. Lured into an underground hiding place, she was raped and killed. But what the reader knows, her family does not. Anxiously, we keep vigil with Susie, aching for her grieving family, desperate for the killer to be found and punished.

Parental Warning - Violence and rape, language, sexual situations and drug/alcohol use.

****NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Again, make sure you approve of the choices your child makes. Do not hesitate to email me at keith.leonard@knoxschools.org with any further questions or concerns.

Summer Reading Assignments

Due: Monday, August 26, 2019 for ALL STUDENTS!
(even if you are scheduled for English in the spring.)

Critical Thinking Questions

After you have read your choice novel, you will need to choose five of the questions below to answer for each book. Each question should be answered as follows:

- Paragraph form with a topic sentence
- Total of at least seven sentences per paragraph.
- Type your answers (if possible),
- Double-spaced
- 12 point, clear font (such as Times New Roman or Arial).

You should type your answers on a Google Document, and then share with your teacher (either keith.leonard@knoxschools.org or kelly.lee@knoxschools.org.) at the beginning of the school year.

So, you should turn in a grand total of 5 paragraphs for this assignment. If it is not possible for you to access a computer or library, then please print clearly on notebook paper, using only the front of the paper, and write on every other line (double-spaced). Also, you should have a header with your name, English I, and the date, at the top of the paper. Again, you should submit this paper in person by the deadline.

We're using this assignment to assess your current writing skills, and your understanding of the novel, so please produce the best work you can. Make sure your paragraphs include details from the novel (and maybe even brief and relevant quotes) to help demonstrate that you truly read and comprehended the novel.

Critical Thinking Questions (Remember-choose FIVE for each novel)

Which character do you admire the most? Why?

Explain the “pivotal” or “crucial” moment in the book. Why was this moment so significant?

Explain at least one issue of race or discrimination in the book. How was that issue developed?

If your book had strong language or violence, explain WHY you think the author included the violence and/or the strong language. Why was it necessary? (Or was it?)

Explain what your novel has to say about the theme of identity?

Explain something you didn't know about that the novel's setting that you know now. (i.e., new knowledge about that area of the world and/or that time period).

What from this book reminded you of something from your own life? Explain.

Is there anything one of the characters said or did that you especially agree with? Why?

Is there anything one of the characters said or did that you especially disagreed with? Why?

While remembering that the author and speaker are two different people, what do you think the author thinks about racism or the justice system? What makes you think that?

Compare & contrast the main character at the beginning of the story and at the end. How has he or she changed? (Something more substantial than just age).

Compare & contrast one of the characters from the current book to a character you've read about in another book or story.

Task 2: Creative Writing

*Remember! We're using this assignment to assess your current writing skills, so please produce the best work you can. **Choose one** of the following three options for your Creative Writing assignment. The assignment should be a **minimum of 500 words**.

Choice 1: Letters to the Past

Write a letter to yourself at a specific point in your past. What do you tell that self about how things are going for you now? What questions do you answer for your past self? What advice do you give?

Choice 2: Name that Emotion

Write about an emotion without ever using the name of the feeling itself, or synonyms for it. How do you describe sadness or happiness or anger? Where does a character feel it? What does it feel like?

Choice 3: This I Believe

In a "This I Believe" story, people from all over the world send in messages expressing a core idea that can be serious or silly, such as "I believe in mechanics." They then expand on that thought with specific, brief examples of why they hold that belief and how they came to believe it. Decide on an idea in which you believe. Use powerful and descriptive sentences to capture your own "This I Believe" statement.

Choice 4: Inanimate Object

Write from the perspective of an inanimate object that you see every day. What desires does that object have? What does it wish humans would do?

*Remember the TN-Ready Rubric for Narrative Writing if you are confused about how narratives work, or if you want to check your work. See the attached Rubric.