

## Honors English 9 Summer Reading Assignment

BEHS English teachers assign summer reading with these reasons in mind: 1) to keep students in the habit of reading over the summer and 2) to expose students to quality fiction that they might not otherwise consider. To prepare you for Honors 9 and high school in general, we are asking that you read at least one of the following books:

- 1) Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*: Set before the Civil War, Huck wants to escape his abusive father while Jim wants to escape slavery. The two travel together down the Mississippi river, encounter many different characters and obstacles, and develop a friendship.
- 2) Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*: Scout, a young girl, and her brother Jem grow and mature in their small town in 1930s Alabama. Both are affected when their father, a lawyer, defends a black man accused of rape.

From the above, you should choose a book you have not read. If you have read one of the books on your own time or for school, you would now make a choice to read something new. Some other things to consider when choosing your book:

- 1) Do not choose based on page numbers
- 2) You may want to skim through a couple of pages of each before making a decision- the vocabulary and writing styles are very different with each book
- 3) If you make a choice and realize part-way through that it is not an ideal book for you, switch!

**Please know that when you begin your Honors English 9 class you will be asked to write a literary analysis essay for the summer reading.** To prepare for the essay, please complete the attached sheet on Themes and Evidence. The essay cannot be done before class and no essays done previously will be accepted. We do, however, expect that your Themes and Evidence will be completed before school starts.

If you have any questions, please email Miss Israelson at [risraelson@bonnyeagle.org](mailto:risraelson@bonnyeagle.org), Mrs. Deptula at [rdeptula@bonnyeagle.org](mailto:rdeptula@bonnyeagle.org), or Ms. Webber at [jwebber@bonnyeagle.org](mailto:jwebber@bonnyeagle.org).

## Themes and Evidence

### Performance Indicators

1. C. Determine a theme or central idea of a complex text and **analyze its development over the course of the text**
2. A. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support an analysis of the text.
  - ❖ Choosing one of the following themes for your book, you will find quotations that show your theme and its development throughout the novel. Make sure to put the page number as this will help you when you write the essay in class.

### Possible Themes

**Coming of Age** -The purpose of the “coming-of-age” novel is to “lead the reader to greater personal enrichment as the protagonist journeys from youth to psychological or emotional maturity.” Usually, this follows a set pattern where the protagonist leaves home, goes through some conflict and growth, is tested by different issues and relationships, then realizes the best place/way to use his talents. Does the main character grow up or mature over the course of the novel? Does he/she come to a new understanding or gain new insight on life or have some kind of transformation? \*Key point: trace the character’s change throughout the novel.

**Individual vs. Society**- In literature, a character might feel held back, or might actually be held back, by society’s leaders, rules and/or expectations. This can be seen with the rules and function of social class, with strict laws or even with parental figures. Sometimes it is clear what is causing the character(s) to feel that society is trying to control him/her and sometimes it is much more of an emotional/mental reaction to perceived control. Does the character have to break the law to do what s/he feels is right? Does the character face many obstacles in trying to accomplish or prove something? Does the society the character lives in seem unfair or unjust?

\*Key point: trace how the character deals with society/community and the outcome.

**The theme:**

**As you read your book, look for good quotations that show the theme. Make sure to choose from different parts of the book to show the development of the theme.**

1. Page #:

Quote:

2. Page #:

Quote:

3. Page #:

Quote:

4. Page #:

Quote:

5. Page #:

Quote:

6. Page #:	Quote:
7. Page #:	Quote:
8. Page #:	Quote:
9. Page #:	Quote:
10. Page #:	Quote:

