

HONORS ENGLISH 9 2016 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

We would like to welcome incoming freshmen students who are taking Honors English 9 at Downey High School in the fall. Our Honors English program is challenging, rigorous, and rewarding. This assignment is for students planning to enter Honors English 9 and is a required component of the curriculum.

Assignment 1: You will be responsible for reading and annotating two novels: *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Pearl*, both by John Steinbeck. The two annotated novels will be due on **Friday, August 19, 2016**. You must complete the readings and annotations by this date as much of your first quarter writing assignments will be focused on these two texts. **There will also be a test on one of the novels** during the first full week of school. Students should read for enjoyment and insight, but both novels should be annotated using the suggestions below (students should average at least one comment per page). We will be collecting your annotations; therefore, if you choose to check the book out from your local library, you must use post-it notes to mark your annotations.

Assignment 2: In addition to annotating these two Steinbeck novels, you will also be reading an additional novel of your choice. The novel must be fiction and must be at least 100 pages, but otherwise, you are free to choose something that is interesting to you, something that you want to read for fun. You **do not** need to annotate this text, but you do need to bring your novel to class and be prepared to write about and discuss it in class on **Thursday, August 18, 2016**.

Should you have additional questions about the assignment, you can e-mail one of the Honors English 9 teachers as follows:

Mr. Bean: jabean@dusd.net

Mrs. Crespo: kcrespo@dusd.net

Mrs. Ordway: bordway@dusd.net

Mrs. Ramirez: aramirez@dusd.net

* Remember, it is summer vacation, so you may not get an immediate response!

Suggestions on How to Annotate Fiction

During reading:

- Highlight characters and characterization at the beginning, middle, and end (notice how the main character(s) change throughout the story)
- Number (1,2,3) plot or the main events
- Put a box around the setting (when and where; atmosphere and mood)
- Circle vocabulary words that you don't know. Use context clues to determine word meanings.
- Put a star next to important events
- Underline the moment of most emotional intensity (climax)

Write in the margins/write on post-it notes:

- Summarize
- Make predictions
- Formulate opinions
- Make connections
- Ask questions (clarify/connect/conclude)
- Analyze author's style (tone, language, style)
- Write reflections/reactions/comments
- Look for patterns and repetitions