

Summer Reading 2010

Honors English I Kingsway Regional High School

Dear Kingsway Freshman—

Congratulations on your completion of middle school and welcome to Kingsway! I am sure that you are looking forward to your summer vacation, but it is never too soon to begin preparing for what lies ahead. So read on, intrepid student!

Because you've elected to take an honors English course, I assume that you *like* to read and do so on a regular basis without someone telling you to. Learning to enjoy reading is one of the first steps to becoming a successful honor student at Kingsway. For this assignment, you will choose a book from a list of challenging (but enjoyable!) books and check it out of the library or purchase your own copy. Read it. After reading the book, you will write an essay exploring that book in more depth. Therefore, I recommend that you first read the essay requirements carefully and then take notes as you read the book. (Taking notes as you read may feel uncomfortable at first, but it is an essential part of literary study.) The essay will be due on September 8th, 2010, the first day of school. **Late work will not be accepted**, so don't procrastinate!

To download and print the summer reading assignment packet:

1. Go to Kingsway's webpage: <http://www.kingsway.k12.nj.us>
2. Click on the "High School" link. (Third from the left under the title banner at the top.)
3. Click on the "Guidance" link on the menu at the left.
4. Find the section for Honors English I and download the summer assignment file.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in September. Good luck, be safe, have fun, work hard...

Sincerely,

Mr. Heenan.

Part I: Reading

Directions: Choose and read one of the following books. Certainly choose a book that you think you'll enjoy, but don't be afraid to challenge yourself! If a book sounds interesting, don't worry about how thick it is; give it a try! If the main character is a girl and you're a boy, so what!? If the protagonist is Native American but you're not, read it anyway! You never know when a book will surprise you and help you see life from a new perspective. (Note bene: An asterisk [*] after the title of the book indicates that the book has appeared on the College Board's Advanced Placement Literature exam. If you plan on eventually taking AP Literature your senior year at Kingsway, reading one of these books is a good way to start preparing early! If not, don't be intimidated; the asterisk *does not* mean that the book is somehow harder or more difficult to read than the others.)

Text List for Summer Reading

Text	Description
<i>The Iliad</i> by Homer (translated by Robert Fagles) *	Quite possibly the best (certainly the oldest) war story ever composed. On the surface, it's the story of the wrath and glory of Achilles, ancient Greece's greatest warrior, during the Trojan War. Beneath, it is a much more complex study of brotherly love and familial duty.
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger *	Holden Caulfield, a boarding school student from a wealthy but troubled family, skips school and goes in search of himself in Manhattan during a cold Thanksgiving holiday.
<i>Rite of Passage</i> , Richard Wright	The bleak, sad story of a gifted fifteen year-old student named Johnny Gibbs who is forced to leave his adoptive family and move into foster care. He runs away, gets caught in a web of crime and gangs, and struggles to escape.
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte *	Set on the dark and stormy moors of northern England, the story of passionate but doomed love between Catherine Earnshaw and the mysterious young man named Heathcliff.
<i>Jasmine</i> , by Bharati Mukherjee *	The story of a young Hindu Indian immigrant girl who struggles to find friends and a new life in the overwhelming cultural diversity of the United States.
<i>The Hobbit</i> , J.R.R. Tolkien	A story of adventure and self-discovery set in the fantasy world of Middle Earth. Bilbo Baggins, a peace-loving hobbit, is thrust into the dangerous search for dwarven treasure that's been stolen and is jealously guarded by a fire-breathing dragon. This novel is the prequel for Tolkien's much longer, more famous work <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> .
<i>The Color of Water</i> , James McBride	The true story of a bi-racial author who seeks to understand himself and his identity by researching and telling the story of the life of his white mother.
<i>Dracula</i> , Bram Stoker	The granddaddy of all vampire stories. A must-read for all you <i>Twilight</i> fans out there.

<i>Frankenstein</i> , Mary Shelley *	A brilliant, ambitious, but prideful young medical student named Victor Frankenstein experiments with the reanimation of dead body tissue and sets out to resurrect a body from the dead. What he achieves is far deadlier, sadder, and more serious than any Hollywood version of this classic tale.
<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> , Malcolm X and Alex Haley	The life story of one of the most controversial leaders in American history, from his experience growing up in the face of racism and segregation, to his conversion to Islam in prison, to his militant activism in the early days of the Civil Rights Movement, to his eventual transformation into a peaceful activist and his tragic assassination.
<i>The Chosen</i> , Chaim Potok	The story of the conflicted friendship and family lives of two young Jewish boys growing up in Brooklyn, New York at the end of World War II, just as news of the Holocaust and its horrors begins to surface.
<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> , Sherman Alexie	A Native-American boy named Arnold Spirit, Jr. (“Junior” for short) who is encouraged to leave the Spokane Indian Reservation to go to an all-white school in a neighboring town. The story is told from Junior’s point of view in a humorous, but ultimately serious, tone about the heavy issues of racism, poverty, and cultural tradition that challenge him.
<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> , Alexandre Dumas	A classic swashbuckling tale of the false conviction, unjust imprisonment, escape, and revenge of Edmond Dantes against his persecutors who stole his life and his fiancée.
<i>The Sound of Waves</i> , Yukio Mishima	Set in a remote fishing village in Japan, this is a story of first love. Upon her return from another island, Shinji is entranced at the sight of Hatsue, a working-class villager. They fall in love, but attempt to keep their relationship from Shinji’s father after becoming the subject of village gossip.
<i>Black Boy</i> , Richard Wright *	Richard Wright’s autobiography of growing up in the South in the midst of poverty and racism. He narrates the course of his life, moving north to Chicago on his own, his struggles as a writer and his controversial rise to literary success.
<i>Bless Me, Ultima</i> , Rudolfo Anaya *	The story of a young Chicano (native Mexican-American) boy who trains under a wise <i>curandera</i> (medicine woman) to learn the methods and mysteries of folk medicine. He encounters the resistance of his family, who disapprove of his dreams, and a group of <i>vaqueros</i> (bandit cowboys) who harass him.
<i>Great Expectations</i> , Charles Dickens *	In one of the most famous bildungsromans (coming-of-age stories) ever written, Phillip Pirrip, Pip for short, relates his experience from his childhood as an orphan to his struggle to find true love and gain financial success as a young man.
<i>Nectar in a Sieve</i> , Kamala Markandaya	The story of a peasant woman, Rukmani, living in a small village in India. She enters into an arranged marriage as a child. The novel spans the life of Rukmani and her family as they face the trials of their ever-changing society that surrounds them.
<i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Jack London	A story told from the perspective of a sled dog, Buck, who escapes from his team in the cold tundra of Canada’s Yukon Territory and reverts back into a wild animal and vies to become the leader of a pack of wolves.

Part II: Essay

I. Essay Requirements: To demonstrate your understanding of the novel's plot and your ability to delve deeper into the inner workings of the text to uncover the author's purpose, you will write a multi-paragraph essay in which you both summarize and analyze (make conclusions based on your observations) the text. If you read carefully, you'll notice that we've left out a specific page length requirement for the essay. In our opinion, this will help you focus more on the quality of your analysis and writing and less on how "long" it should be. Use the outline below to help structure your essay. You will be graded based on how well you complete each section. If you think long and hard about the book and follow the outline carefully, your essay will be plenty "long."

Essay Outline

A. Introduction: Introduce the novel to your readers. Provide a basic summary (no more than a paragraph) of the novel's plot and a brief explanation of the purpose of your essay.

B. Body: Be sure to write at least one paragraph exploring each of the following five areas of literary analysis:

1. *Setting:* How are the details of the setting important to the events of the story? How do they contribute to the novel's conflict, or affect its characters, or communicate its themes?
2. *Conflict:* What is the *main* conflict at work in the novel? Against what people or forces does the protagonist of the novel struggle? What is the cause of the conflict? How does the conflict cause change in the novel? (In your analysis, be specific. Avoid generalizations like: "The conflict of the novel is person vs. society.")
3. *Character:* Choose one major character and analyze that character by discussing the following:
 - a. If your character is the protagonist, what conflict does the character face?
If your character is the antagonist, what conflict does the character cause?
 - b. What do the actions of the character reveal about her or his personality?
 - c. Choose what you think is an important statement made by your character.
What does that statement reveal about the character's personality?
 - d. How well does the character deal with the conflict in the novel? Does the conflict cause a change in the character? Is it a change for the worse or the better?
4. *Author's Style:* Examine the author's writing style and look to see how she or he uses language and/or literary tools to express additional meaning and to give the novel depth. Identify an example and try to explain for what purpose the author uses it. Perhaps the author uses very striking imagery to emphasize

an important event, or a description of an ominous storm to foreshadow unfortunate events? Below is a list of literary devices you may have studied that good authors commonly use. Look for examples of them as you read:

imagery	personification	metaphor	irony	repetition
simile	juxtaposition	mood	foreshadowing	symbol

5. **Theme:** What ideas (friendship, love, loyalty, identity, revenge, etc.) does the author explore in the novel? Which is the most important? How does the author emphasize that that theme is the most important? What lesson (if any) does the author seem to communicate about that theme?

C. Conclusion: Conclude your essay with an evaluation of the book (judge its quality and the author's effectiveness in developing the five categories explored in the body of your essay). Provide a recommendation to future readers of the book; explain why they should or should not read the novel.

D. Formatting: Your essay must be double-spaced and typed in a publishing-quality, 12-point font (one that looks like what you would see in a book or newspaper: *Times New Roman*, *Arial*, *Garamond*, or *Palatino*). This outline, for example, is typed in *Times New Roman*). You must have a four-line header at the top left-hand corner of the first page only. That header will contain the following information:

Your name
Course Title (Honors English I)
Teacher's Name (Mr. Heenan)
Due Date (September 8, 2010)

II. Assessment: Your essays will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Content:** Do you answer all parts of the essay prompt? Do your paragraphs contain clear topic statements and stay on topic? Does your essay demonstrate a full understanding of the novel? Do you analyze (make conclusions based on your observations) the characters and events of the novel, or are you just summarizing what happened?
2. **Structure and Format:** Does your essay have a complete introduction, body, and conclusion? Does it conform to the format required by the teacher?
3. **Language:** Are your sentences clear and well-constructed, or does their meaning get lost in errors or excessive wordiness? Have you proofread and edited for errors in spelling or sentence structure (incomplete or run-on sentences)? If you are unsure about the accuracy and correctness of your language, ask a parent, sibling, relative, or a friend for help!
4. **Proofreading:** Be sure to proofread your writing yourself! In other words, don't rely on the computer to catch mistakes.

English Department- Summer Reading Assignment Policy

Transfer and Schedule Change Policy

- Students who transfer into the district AFTER August 20th and immediately receive all materials from the guidance department will be able to have an extension on the assignments.
- Students transferring to Kingsway from another district after September 30 will not be required to complete the written assignments, but they will still be required to read the novels and take notes so they can prepare for mid-term exams.*
- Students who were part of the Kingsway student body at the end of the 2010 school year who decide to change their course selection will still be required to complete the reading and the assignments. These students are responsible for contacting the teacher and getting the work as soon as possible.

*Note: Advanced Placement courses do not offer exemptions from the writing assignment for summer reading.