

February 12, 2013

Dear Student:

Thank you for your interest in Honors English for your freshman year at Hemet High School! Ninth Grade Honors English is an advanced course in literature and composition, which assumes students have the ability and desire to pursue coursework more demanding than regular freshman English. Emphasis is placed on critical reading, questioning, responding actively and imaginatively to literature, thinking reflectively, writing about literature and related ideas, writing for specific occasion, audience, and purpose, and writing creatively.

Attached, please find the recommended summer reading list and reading log assignment for incoming freshman. First and foremost, I encourage you to read all you can over the summer from this list and elsewhere, but for this assignment, please read **one** of the novels listed and complete a reading log according the format included on that novel of your choice. You will turn in your reading log on the first day of school in the fall. These are novels that are often recommended reading for incoming honors freshman, but if there is any question about their appropriateness, you and your parent may consult the California Department of Education Recommended Reading List online for further information to guide you in your choice. These novels may be purchased online or from Cameron Books locally. Of course, you could check one out from a local library. Most of all, enjoy your summer! Therefore, research these books and pick the one you think you will be interested in reading the most.

Have fun and I look forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cami Arnold

READING LIST: Honors 9 English

**Please read at least one of the following:**

1. *The Human Comedy*, Saroyan
2. *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*, Craven
3. *Great Expectations; David Copperfield*, Dickens
4. *The Pearl; Cannery Row*, Steinbeck
5. *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway
6. *Animal Dreams*, Kingsolver
7. *My Antonia*, Cather
8. *The Time Machine*, Wells
9. *The Ox Bow Incident*, Van Tilberg Clark
10. *Grendel*, Gardner
11. *Richard III; The Winter's Tale; The Tempest; The Merchant of Venice; Antony and Cleopatra*, Shakespeare
12. *The Sword in the Stone*, White
13. *Streetcar Named Desire*, Williams
14. *The Age of Innocence*, Wharton
16. *A Separate Peace*, Knowles
17. *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry
18. *Catch 22*, Heller
19. *The Sun Also Rises*, Hemingway
20. *The Red Badge of Courage*, Crane
21. *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*, Lewis
22. *Miss Jane Pittman*, Gaines
23. *Maximum Ride the Angel Experiment*, Patterson
24. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, Boyne
25. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, Bradbury
26. *The Andromeda Strain*, Crichton
27. *Stargirl*, Spinelli

## Honors 9 English

### *Reading Log Format*

Based on your chosen novel, please complete the following on your own paper:

1. Copy **fifteen** specific passages (two sentences each) from the novel which you find important and write them down exactly as they are found in the text. Also, with each passage, note why **you** feel it is important or why it is significant in the novel. Be careful not to just simply restate what the quote says.
2. List and describe the main characters in the novel (minimum four sentences per character):
3. List and describe the minor characters in the novel (minimum four sentences per character):
4. Describe **two** significant settings and explain why these settings are places where key action occurs in the novel. Include one thoughtful paragraph for each setting.
5. Plot: In **three** organized paragraphs (**seven** sentences each), summarize the essential events of the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.
6. Author's purpose: In **one** paragraph (**five** sentences), explain what you believe the author's purpose or intent was in writing this novel. In other words, what central message, moral, or lesson about man or society is the reader to acquire from this novel?
7. Vocabulary: List and define **fifteen** unfamiliar words you learned from reading this text.