

## Summer Reading for English I Honors

All English I Honors must complete the following summer reading and assignments\*:

- *The Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Gruwell

Choose one of the two prompts and write a well-developed composition:

Trace the changes one student undergoes in a particular semester or over the four years, or trace the change the whole class undergoes over the course of a semester or the four years. Discuss the four-year evolution of the Freedom Writers from needing change and being influenced to change to spurring change in others (being agents of change).

-or-

Tell the author, Erin Gruwell, or the Freedom Writers how the book has impacted your life or your beliefs about education. Include specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

You will be given a test on *Fahrenheit 451* when you return to school in September.

\*Failure to complete the summer reading and assignments will adversely impact your first quarter grade.

## Summer Reading Assignments for English II Honors

**DIRECTIONS:** Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor students will complete both summer reading books and writing assignments described below.

(A) Students will read The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. This 2002 historical novel is set in South Carolina in 1964, where a young white girl, living with her abusive father and black maid, is in search of her mother's past.

1. Complete the enclosed book report form.
2. Write a five-paragraph essay using the following prompt:

In literature as in life, conflicts can be resolved in unexpected ways. From the novel The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd, identify a conflict that ends unexpectedly. In a well-developed composition, describe a conflict that ends unexpectedly and explain why this resolution is unexpected.

Note: Enclosed is a handout on writing a 5 paragraph essay, a list of transitional words and phrases to be used in your essay, and the MCAS Long Composition Rubric.

(B) Students will read Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. This biography is the story of Chris McCandless, a young man who gives away all his money and deliberately wanders into the Alaskan wilderness by himself in April 1992, and his dead body is found in September 1992.

1. Complete the enclosed book report form for this book as well.

Please Note: Students may be tested upon return to school in September. Students should be prepared to hand in their assignments on the first day of class.

**\*\*Failure to complete these summer assignments may adversely affect first quarter grades.**

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## English II

### Suggestions for Writing a Good MCAS Five-Paragraph Essay

#### I. Introduction

- Restate the first sentence of the prompt for your opening sentence.
- Briefly summarize the piece of literature and/or give background information.
- Thesis statement written either as last sentence of introduction (include the Genre, Author, and Title) or, if it makes more sense to have it at the beginning of your introduction, that's fine.

#### II. Body Paragraphs (3 in all)

- Write a strong topic sentence for each body paragraph + use a transitional word or phrase. Do not use the word "because" in your topic sentence. You will state the "because" in your paragraph.
- Make sure you provide two examples and use transitional words and phrases to proceed from one example to another.
- Make sure your body paragraphs are addressing the question, not just summing up the story.

#### III. Conclusion

- Wrap things up.
  - You can restate your thesis and summarize the points you have made.
  - You can give an opinion about the topic.
  - You can state a lesson or moral to be learned from the topic or story.
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**Transitions and Linking Words**

**Words that can be used to show location:**

above	away from	beyond	into	over
across	behind	by	near	throughout
against	below	down	off	to the right
along	beneath	in back of	onto	under
among	beside	in front of	on top of	
around	between	inside	outside	

**Words that can be used to show time:**

about	first	meanwhile	soon	then
after	second	today	later	next
at	third	tomorrow	afterward	as soon as
before	till	next week	immediately	when
during	until	yesterday	finally	

**Words that can be used to compare things (show similarities):**

in the same way	likewise	as
similarly	like	also

**Words that can be used to contrast things (show differences):**

but	otherwise	although	on the other hand
however	yet	still	even though

**Words that can be used to emphasize a point:**

again	for this reason	truly
to repeat	to emphasize	in fact

**Words that can be used to conclude or summarize:**

as a result	finally	in conclusion	to sum up
therefore	last	in summary	all in all

**Words that can be used to add information:**

again	another	for instance	finally
also	and	moreover	as well
additionally	besides	next	along with
in addition	for example	likewise	equally important

**Words that can be used to clarify:**

in other words	for instance	that is	put another way
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Name  
Date  
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## Book Report

**Directions:** Answer the questions completely. Always use an example from the book when you answer a question. *Your goal is to make me want to read this book.* Spelling and grammar count, so be sure to edit your report before handing it in. Don't forget to write the headings and number your answers.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Title of your book:
2. Author:
3. Publisher:
4. Copyright Date:
5. Total Number of Pages:

### SETTING

1. What is the setting (time and place) of the book?
2. Where does the action take place?

### CHARACTERS

1. Who are the main characters? Describe them in three words.
2. Are the characters believable?
3. Which character did you like the most? Why?
4. Could you relate to any of the characters in the story? Why?
5. Have you even done similar things or felt the same way as any of the characters?

### PLOT

1. What is the main problem (conflict) in the story?
2. What events lead up to the climax? What happens after it?
3. How does the story end? Did you like the ending? Why?

### PERSONAL OPINION

1. What three things did you like best about this book?
2. What one thing would you change about this book?
3. What did you learn from this book? How will you use it in your life?
4. Who should read this book? Explain.
5. Would you recommend this book to a friend or classmate? Why?

## Summer Reading Assignments for English III Honors

All English III Honors students must complete the following summer reading and assignments:

- *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again* by J.R.R. Tolkein
- *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

Write a 600 – 800 word paper, typed (double-spaced), for each novel. The prompts are as follows:

- In *The Hobbit*, who is the real hero and what makes him heroic? Select the character you think is the most heroic and defend why he deserves that title using examples and quotes from the text. Use the proper MLA citations.
- Explain the meaning of Gregor Samsa's transformation in *The Metamorphosis*. Use examples from the text to support your stance. Use the proper MLA citations.

Papers will be due the **FIRST DAY** of school., There will be a test the first week of school, at the teacher's discretion, to check reading comprehension. Failure to do the summer assignments will adversely impact the first quarter grade.

## Summer Reading Assignments for English IV Honors

All English IV Honors students must complete the following summer reading and assignments \*:

- *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* by Fannie Flagg

In an interview with Samuel S. Vaughn, the author, Fannie Flagg, said, “Strangely enough, the first character in *Fried Green Tomatoes* was the café, and the town. I think a place can be as much a character in a novel as the people.” In a well-developed, two-page essay discuss the Whistle Stop Café as a character.

- *Among Schoolchildren* by Tracy Kidder

You will be given a test on *Among Schoolchildren* when you return to school in September.

\*Failure to complete the summer reading and assignments will adversely impact your first quarter grade.