Westlake High School
Mt. Pleasant Central School District

Dear Students,

Welcome to English 9 Honors! Selecting this course tells me that you want to be challenged, stretched, and taught well, and I will do my best to do just that. 9H is an advanced course that moves at a quick pace; we read a lot, and we write a lot. As such, I am asking you to read three books over the summer and do some work to prepare you for the rigor of the class.

Please read the following over the summer:
1) *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
2) *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
3) A book of your choice - do not read a book you have already read. Challenge yourself!

Note: Due to school closures, I will be unable to distribute the above texts; thus, I have linked to pdf documents of the books above to provide access to everyone. Also, feel free to utilize the Westchester Library System and Overdrive to download books to any electronic device. All you'll need is a library card! *If possible, I would recommend buying the books to highlight and annotate directly in the texts. I understand if you choose not to.*

I have prepared some materials on Google Classroom to set some context for *Mockingbird* and *Of Mice and Men*. Read this information BEFORE reading each book. For *Mockingbird*, read and annotate towards the ideas and questions located on Classroom. As you read *Of Mice and Men* and your choice book, highlight and annotate for important passages. Use the "Literary Signposts" from this packet to help you select important passages. You should also complete a digital Word Journal (100 words) for your three summer reading books.

Finally, you should review the parts of speech notes. These are terms that you should already know as you enter 9H. We will review this topic within the first few days of school, and we will have a quiz on them shortly thereafter.

See the next page for a detailed breakdown of the assignment. All work is located on Google Classroom. **If we are in school in September, print out your Word Journal and bring it to the first class.**

The completed assignments are **due on the first day of class** and are a **prerequisite** for the course. You may be asked to write in response to any/all of these books within the first week of school. ***Students may be asked to consider English 9 Regents as an alternative placement if the assignment is missing, incomplete, plagiarized, or poorly done on the first day of class.*** All directions on the next several pages should be self-explanatory. If, for some reason, you have any questions over the summer, feel free to contact me at cdippolito@mtplcsd.org. Because of vacations and/or other commitments, I may not respond right away.

Have a great summer! I look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. D'Ippolito

Breakdown of Assignments:

1) Read information on Google Classroom (Code: tyg3zhk) for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. After, read and annotate towards the focus questions, and take notes on the novel. Add to your Word Journal.

2) Read information on Google Classroom for *Of Mice and Men*. Mark important passages and annotate. Add to your Word Journal.

3) Read your choice book. Mark important passages and annotate. Recommendations are located on Google Classroom. Add to your Word Journal.

4) Complete the Summer Reading Word Journal digitally (100 words) as you read the texts. I pushed out a copy for everyone on Classroom. **You should have words chosen from all three texts**.

5) Review the parts of speech. We will review again as a class within the first two weeks of school, and we will have a quiz on them. These are terms that you should feel confident in *prior* to entering 9H.

Google Classroom Code: tyg3zhk

Common Literary "Signposts"

Signpost	Clues	Related Literary Elements	Anchor Questions
Contrasts and Contradictions A sharp contrast between what we would expect and what we observe the character doing; behavior contradicts previous behavior or well-established patterns. Also contrasts between characters or situations.	A character behaves or thinks in a way we don't expect, or an element of a setting is something we would not expect	Character development Internal conflict Theme Relationship between setting and plot	Why would the character act or feel this way? How do the contrasts between characters help us understand them? How might contrasts between situations help us predict plot or conflict?
Again and Again Events, images, or particular words that recur over a portion of the novel	A word is repeated, sometimes used in an odd way, over and over in the story An image reappears several times during the course of the book	Plot Setting Symbolism Theme Character development Conflict	Why might the author bring this up again and again?
Memory Moment A recollection by a character that interrupts the forward progress of the story	The ongoing flow of the narrative is interrupted by a memory that comes to the character, often taking several paragraphs to recount before we are returned to events of the present moment.	Character development Plot Theme Relationship between character and plot	Why might this memory be important?
Aha! Moment A character's realization of something that shifts his actions or understanding of himself, others, or the world around him.	Phrases usually expressing suddenness, like: "Suddenly I understood..." "It came to me in a flash that..." "The realization hit me like a lightning bolt..." "In an instant I knew..."	Character development Internal conflict Plot	How might this change things?
Tough Questions Questions a character raises that reveal his/her inner struggles	Phrases expressing serious doubt or confusion: "What could I possibly do to...?" "I couldn't imagine how I could cope with..." "How could I ever understand why she...?" "Never had I been so confused about..."	Internal conflict Theme Character development	What does this question make the reader wonder about?
Words of the Wiser The advice or insight a wiser character--usually older--offers about life to the main character	The main character and another are usually off by themselves in a quiet, serious moment, and the wiser figure shares his wisdom or advice in an effort to help the main character with a problem or a decision.	Theme Internal conflict Relationship between character and plot	What the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?

Grammar you should <u>already know</u> coming into 9H:

PART OF SPEECH	BASIC FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
<u>noun</u>	names a person, place, or thing	*pirate, Caribbean, ship*
<u>pronoun</u>	takes the place of a noun	*I, you, he, she, it, ours, them, who*
<u>verb</u>	identifies action or state of being	*sing, dance, believe, be*
<u>adjective</u>	modifies a noun	*hot, lazy, funny*
<u>adverb</u>	modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb	*softly, lazily, often*
<u>preposition</u>	shows a relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and other words in a sentence	*up, over, against, by, for*
<u>conjunction</u>	joins words, phrases, and clauses	*and, but, or, yet*
<u>interjection</u>	expresses emotion	*ah, whoops, ouch*
<u>article</u>	identifies and specifies a noun	*a, an, the*

Now you will have the opportunity to select 100 personalized vocabulary words based on your **9H summer readings**. Include the word, the part of speech, the definition, and the source with a proper citation. This may be handwritten.

	Word	Part of Speech	Definition	Source
1.	incantations	noun	Chanting of magical words or formulas that are supposed to cast a spell or perform other magic.	(Narayan 11)
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