

Honors English II Summer Assignment 2018

For your assignment this summer, I'd like for you to focus on the genre of mystery. I'd like you to read a mystery novel of your choice—**over 100 pages**—by an author other than Agatha Christie. If you need help finding a novel, check out the websites I have listed below or ask the librarians at the Caldwell Public Library.¹ Some popular past and modern mystery authors include Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Ellis Peters, Dick Francis, Mary Higgins Clark, Sue Grafton, Lillian Jackson Braun, Anne Perry, Tony Hillerman, and Elliot Roosevelt. If you choose any of these authors, just be mindful that some of their writing can get very explicit. I want you to choose something that will suit you comfortably, but as this is an Honors class **I do expect more mature mystery novels than the *Hardy Boys*, *Nancy Drew*, or *Goosebumps*.**

Once you have completed the novel, **write an essay analyzing** how closely the novel fulfills the expectations of a good detective story (this will require you to do some outside research). In writing this essay, your goal should be one in which you are able to critically compare the novel to the standards of detective/mystery fiction, but also discuss the ways in which the novel goes about handling style, content, etc. I am mostly interested in what you can do with your current writing skills.

Begin your paper with an introduction that introduces both your novel and the outside research you will be discussing—the introduction of your essay should also end with a strong and clearly-defined thesis statement or main idea. I'd like you to **BOLD THE THESIS**, that way I know you're at least striving for some semblance of direction. When discussing each work, you need to name both the title and author in the introduction and then refer to each work by the author's last name from that point on.

When you have completed your essay, I would like you to **CREATE A PROJECT** for the novel you read. This is a creative piece that you should be thinking about throughout your reading of the novel and articles. It can be a drawing/painting, model, graphic novel...anything, but it must capture clearly at least one significant philosophy, theory, or ideology of the detective/mystery genre, or it can be something related to your novel. The first day of school, you will present the project to the class and explain how it relates to your novel. This will most likely require you to do a little outside research on your own, other than just the materials I have provided you with.

¹ Mystery Websites: These links are organized by category, and also contain some excellent reviews and criticism of past and modern mystery writing. You can find anything from safe, "cozy" mysteries—little to no violence or gore—to brutal, bloody, high-intensity mysteries:

"Mystery and Crime Fiction" → <http://mysterycrimefiction.suite101.com/>

"Cozy Mysteries" → <http://www.cozy-mystery.com/>

"Looking for a Mystery?" → <http://www.sldirectory.com/libsf/booksf/mystery/topic.html>

Please type your essay: MLA formatting, double-spacing, 1” margins (w/ name, date, course title, instructor in the upper left corner), 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, two pages in length. **The essay is due the first day of class. Please bring all of your notes, articles, book, printed essay, and project with you on the first day of school!**

If you do not have the essay printed out and the project in hand by the above due date, it will be an automatic removal from Honors!

As you are gathering school supplies for the fall, please note that for Honors II you will need a three-ring binder to keep your class work organized, along with a composition book or thin spiral notebook for the journal writing and practice writing you will be doing in and outside of class. You will also need lined, college-ruled paper, pens (blue/black ink only), pencils, highlighters, and 3x5 index cards (any color, with or without lines).

During the school year we will be reading two novels, a play, and an epic poem: *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by William Shakespeare, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by the “Pearl Poet.” **You will be provided with copies of the novels and the poem, but you may want to purchase your own copies to use for notes.** If you do purchase your own copy, please make sure you buy one of the following editions so that you will have the same copy as the rest of the class: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* → the Norton edition w/ a castle on the cover, translated by Marie Borroff, ISBN# 0-393-97658-0.

If you need help during the summer, please feel free to email me at jhunt@caldwellschools.org-with the subject line “Summer Assignment,” so I don’t accidentally delete it as spam. I will try and check my email at least once a week, though I will be out of the country June 6th -- July 18th, and may not reply immediately. Have a wonderful and mysterious summer break!

-Mr. Hunt
Honors English II
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