

## AHS Pre-AP English I

A suitable candidate for Pre-AP English I is a self-motivated, independent student willing to take academic risks in classroom discussion, and accepting of the demands of a rigorous reading and writing program.

The ninth and tenth grade Pre-AP English courses are designed to prepare students for the demands of the high school eleventh and twelfth grade (college level) Advanced Placement (AP) courses. The pace is extremely fast with the expectation that students will complete reading and writing assignments every night. A successful Pre-AP English student delves beyond basic plot, demonstrates correct grammar and mechanics in writing assignments, and welcomes the challenges of the analytical focus of the class.

Pre-AP English I requires students to complete homework outside of the classroom most weeknights, weekends and over holiday breaks. Typical assignments include independent reading and analysis of literature, vocabulary and grammar exercises, essays, projects, and research.

Pre-AP English I has a summer reading requirement. Students must complete the assignment in order to indicate their commitment to the class. There will be a test (or tests) the first week of school. No excuses will be accepted. Please purchase the following novels for summer reading\*:

Paper Towns by John Green

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

As part of your summer reading assignment, you will complete a dialectical journal and annotate your text. Please refer to the attached handout for examples of annotations and dialectical journals. (Your annotations and journals will be your first grades in Pre-AP English I. They are due the first day of school.)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [bmcveigh@ardmoreschools.org](mailto:bmcveigh@ardmoreschools.org) or call AHS at 226-7680.

I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Brooke McVeigh

Dialectical Journal and Annotation Instructions

### Annotations

- Write comments outside of paragraphs/sections of importance; especially places where you ask questions, relate to characters, think of your own life, etc.
- Star (\*) any passage that is very important: an event, a decision, or cause/effect relationship.
- Underline any sentence that really makes you think or really appeals to you.
- Circle any words that are unfamiliar.
- Bracket [ ] areas that you were confused about or did not fully understand.

### Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal shows your conversation with the text. It highlights questions, connections and ideas you had as you read. Below is an example. You should have 3-5 entries for each chapter. They will be evaluated on details and thoughtfulness. **Use complete sentences.** Put the page number in parentheses.

Commentary can include:

- What you think something means
- The personal connections you make (to a character, setting, event)
- Patterns you notice
- Predictions you can make
- Observations about a character
- What seems unusual
- Recognition of a literary technique and ideas about its meaning and purpose

# Summer Reading Requirement

## Pre-AP English I

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please take an opportunity to look over the summer reading assignment for Pre-AP English I that I have prepared. Afterwards, I ask that you sign this form and return it with your child at your earliest convenience. By signing this form, you agree that you understand what will be expected of your child during the summer. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at school. Also, please print your e-mail address on the space provided below as we will be meeting two times during the summer. I am looking forward to working with your child.

Thank you,

Brooke McVeigh

bmcveigh@ardmoreschools.org

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email address

Dear Student,

By signing this form, you agree that you understand what will be expected of you concerning the summer assignment for Pre-AP English I. Also, if you have a separate email from your parent/guardian, please list it in the space provided.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Email Address

