

## Honors English 8 Summer Reading

### Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English!

It's summer! Why do we already have an assignment for Honors English?

This course is designed for highly motivated, talented language arts students who enjoy reading and who are willing to put in extra time and effort into English studies. We expect students to work independently, demonstrate above-average grade-level proficiency in writing, and develop critical reading and thinking skills through shared literary experiences. Since regular and extensive reading and writing are essential in order to become proficient readers and writers, we expect you to demonstrate your commitment to learning even when school is over for the summer.

Your first assignment in Honors English is summer reading. For this year's summer reading assignment, you will read two (2) books of your choice (see below for specifics). For each book you read, you will complete a **typed** written assignment. Please type your assignment using Times New Roman, size 12 font (see details below).

#### The Details:

##### 1. Read two (2) books.

Make them books that will **challenge you, educate you, and/or enlighten you**. **Be prepared to defend your choice of book as to the challenging, educational or enlightening nature.** *Low lexile fiction books (anything below a 1000 is not appropriate) will be questioned and cause a re-do of the project.* You can check the lexile of the book on [lexile.com](http://lexile.com). The books you choose can be fiction or nonfiction and should *not be run-of-the-mill teenage books*. **Choose a book that is not also a movie so you're not tempted to just watch the movie.** Please get parent permission in choosing your books. Even better would be to choose books that one of your parents will read with you and can talk about with you. Then it's kind of a mini-book club! We know this isn't always possible, so that's okay if it doesn't happen. In the past, students have chosen such books as *1984*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Born to Run*, *Twenty-thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, *The Case for Faith*, *Animal Farm*, *Swimming to Antarctica*, *The Big Burn*, *Unbroken*, (has been made into a movie now, so that one's off the table), *etc.*

2. Use the attached reading log schedule to complete your assignment. This is not required, but can be used as a tool to keep you on track.

##### 3. Mark meaningful passages.

As you read, notice passages that are meaningful to you and mark them with sticky notes. You might select a passage because you can connect it with your life or the world around you. It could be a passage that reminds you of another novel or film, alludes to the theme of the book, or evokes powerful images through beautiful language.

4. **Write about your reading.** (See the sample on the following page to see how to format your writing)

**A. Write a gist statement of not more than 25 words. Be sure to convey the setting and the conflict faced by the characters.**

*Example gist statement:* During his middle school years, tragedy strikes Tree's life and he overcomes challenges at school and home while he struggles to define his personal identity. (25 words).

**B. Select, copy, and respond to three (3) passages** that you think are significant in terms of how you reacted to the book's themes, conflict, characters, plot, or the craft of the author's writing style. Choose a passage from the text that you think **shows something essential**.

- Copy the passage exactly as it is written in the book and set it off in quotes.
- Cite the page number (author's last name, page number)
- Below each selected passage, write two (2) paragraphs indicating the significance of that particular passage and why you selected it. Make your response personal and reflective. Each paragraph should contain at least 5 thoughtful sentences.

**C. Write one (1) critical thinking question and answer** that will encourage the use of higher level thinking skills and spark a discussion about an important topic raised in this book. The best discussion questions are open-ended and come from your own thoughts, feelings, and concerns as you read. A great way to formulate a question is to address a theme from the book. For example, if the book involves the devastating impact of bullying, you might write a question such as: *What impact does bullying have on people, and who (if anybody) is responsible for controlling it?*

- Write your question and answer in complete sentences.
- Each question must be different. You may not use the same question for each book.
- You must include a complete, thorough answer for each question.

**D. Write a paragraph explaining one element of conflict in your book.** Explain what kind of conflict it is (person v. person, person v. self, person v. society, person v. nature, person v. fate) and cite specific evidence from the text that supports your claim. Cite the page number (author, page number).

**E. Write a paragraph explaining how this book challenged you.**

**Format your paper like this:**

Charlie Brown  
Honors English 8  
August 2, 2015

Summer Reading Book #1

Novel: Unbroken

Author: Laura Hillenbrand

Gist:

Passage #1

Passage #2

Passage #3

Critical Thinking Question:

Critical Thinking Answer:

Conflict:

Challenge Paragraph Explanation:

***This written assignment is due the second day of school.***

**5. Partner share and/or short presentation:**

When you return to school in the fall, you will be expected to share the summer literary experience with a partner and/or your entire class. Your teacher will collect and score your written portion, and it is up to each individual teacher to decide the format for the presentation and scoring.

Copies of this handout are available on Mountainside's website. We look forward to hearing about all the great books you read this summer!

If you have questions, email Mrs. May at [Karen.May@mead354.org](mailto:Karen.May@mead354.org), Mr. Henderson at [Ryan.Henderson@mead354](mailto:Ryan.Henderson@mead354) or Mrs. Hansen at [Caitlin.hansen@mead354.org](mailto:Caitlin.hansen@mead354.org) .

Rubric

**Standard:**

*W 8.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.*

*RL 8.2: Write an objective summary of text*

*RL: 8.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of text, both inferential and explicit.*

*SL 8.1: Come to discussions prepared, having read/studied material and able to reflect/probe on issues.*

*SL 8.4: Present claims/findings in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, valid reasoning, and well-chosen details.*

Rubric:	_____ pts Section is complete, well written, and grammatically correct.	_____ pts Section is incomplete, shows lack of deeper thinking, or has errors in grammar.	___0___ pts Section is missing or severely lacking in thought, or has too many errors to be acceptable.
<b>Book #1 Title:</b> _____			
Gist			
Passage #1 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)			
Passage #2 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)			
Passage #3 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)			
Critical Thinking Question			
Critical Thinking Answer			
Conflict Paragraph			
Challenge Paragraph			
<b>Book #2 Title:</b> _____			
Gist			
Passage #1 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)			
Passage #2 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)			
Passage #3 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)			
Critical Thinking Question			
Critical Thinking Answer			
Conflict Paragraph			
Challenge Paragraph			

Total:

Score:

# Summer Reading Log

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book 1 Title:		
Date	Pages read	Notes
	<b>FINISH BOOK!</b>	
	Write Book "Gist"	
	Complete Passage #1 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)	
	Complete Passage #2 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)	
	Complete Passage #3 (copied, page number cited, significance and why selected)	
	Write Critical Thinking Question	
	Write Critical Thinking Answer	
	Write Conflict Paragraph	
8/1/2018	<b>Book 1 project COMPLETE</b>	

