



Mountainside Middle School
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Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to Honors English! We are looking forward to a great year.

Attached you will find your summer homework. We would like you to read **one novel** (from the list on the back of this letter). Your assignment is to create a movie poster for the book you choose and write several paragraphs about the novel. This homework assignment will be due on Monday, September 10th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the teachers listed below.

Sincerely,

Kristy Hoff
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Drew Piper
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Summer Reading List

(Choose one of the following books)

Adventure

- ▶ Chomp by Carl Hiaasen
- ▶ 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
- ▶ Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss

Biography/Nonfiction

- ▶ Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Patillo Beals
- ▶ This Boy's Life: A Memoir by Tobias Wolff

Classic Literature

- ▶ Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- ▶ The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
- ▶ Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Montgomery
- ▶ Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Coming-of-Age

- ▶ The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
- ▶ I'll Be There by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- ▶ A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Fantasy

- ▶ The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater
- ▶ The Lord of the Rings series by J.R.R. Tolkien (choose one book from the series)

Fiction

- ▶ The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood
- ▶ Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns
- ▶ Summer of my German Soldier by Bette Greene
- ▶ The Road to Memphis by Mildred E. Taylor
- ▶ Countdown by Deborah Wiles

Horror

- ▶ Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
- ▶ Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Mystery

- ▶ Death on the Nile by Agatha Christie
- ▶ The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- ▶ The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Science Fiction

- ▶ Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- ▶ War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells

After reading one of the novels from the summer reading list, you will create a movie poster for the book and write several paragraphs about the novel. The poster and paragraphs are due Monday, September 10th. Here are the assignment guidelines:



Movie Poster (30 points)

You will pretend that your book is going to be made into a movie. Create a poster that explains the main characters, the setting, and the central conflict of the book. Your poster needs to include the following elements:

- Name of the book and author
- Visual representation of the setting and main conflict
 - Pictures, drawings, etc.
- At least 3 actors you envision playing key roles
 - Example: Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson as Frankenstein
- Critic Recommendation
 - Examples: "3 out of 4 stars" or "Two Thumbs Up!"
 - Include a brief explanation of your recommendation

Note: If your book has already been made into a movie, you must choose **new actors** to play key characters and use a **different format/layout** than the actual movie poster.

Written Component (20 points)

Respond to the following topics using complete paragraphs. Include as many details and examples from the novel as needed. Your writing must be typed and double-spaced.

1. Plot (10 points)

A plot is the sequence of events in a story. Write **at least two complete paragraphs** explaining the plot of your novel. Be sure to include the following in your response:

- What is the setting of the story?
- Who are the main characters?
- Which scenes are the most important to the novel's plot? Why?
- What is the theme of the book?

2. Conflict (5 points)

A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces. Write **at least one complete paragraph** explaining the central conflict of your book. Be sure to identify the novel's protagonist and antagonist. To help you write the paragraph, consider these questions:

- What conflict(s) do the characters face?
- What steps do the characters take to resolve the conflict(s)?
- Is the conflict resolved by the end of the book? Why or why not?

3. Book Review (5 points)

Pretend you are a book critic. Write **at least one complete paragraph** reviewing the novel. A good review will contain your honest opinion of the book. To help you write your review, consider these questions:

- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
 - What were the most effective or suspenseful scenes in the book? Why?
 - Were there parts of the book that were boring or dragged on too long? Why?
 - Could the book be improved? How?
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Summer Project Grading Checklist (Example)

Name: _____

Date: _____

____ your score / 50 possible points

____ Movie Poster (30 pts. possible)

- Name of the book and author
- Visual representation of the setting
- Visual representation of the main conflict
- Names or pictures of at least 3 actors
- Critic recommendation
- Poster is colorful and professional
- Conventions

____ Plot Paragraphs (10 pts. possible)

- Two or more complete paragraphs (each paragraph = at least 5 sentences)
- Explanation of setting
- Main characters are identified
- Summary of important scenes
- Theme explained
- Conventions

____ Conflict (5 pts. possible)

- One or more paragraphs (paragraph = at least 5 sentences)
- Protagonist and Antagonist identified
- Explanation of conflict(s)
- Steps taken by characters to settle the conflict(s)
- Status of conflict(s) at the end of the book
- Conventions

____ Book Review (5 pts. possible)

- One or more paragraphs (paragraph = at least 5 sentences)
- Book recommendation
- Explanation of positive and/or negative aspects of book
- Conventions