

Summer Reading Assignment

College Prep English 9

Mr. Shields

Over the vacation, please secure and read copies of *The Outsiders* and *That Was Then, This Is Now*, both of which were written by contemporary author S. E. Hinton. You should find the books to be “quick reads,” meaning that they are enjoyable as well as informative. Pay special attention to the characters and how they relate to the action of the plot. Consider how each character adds to the theme of the novel, or the author’s message she hopes to convey to her readers.

Upon returning to Seneca in the fall, you will be taking an objective test on each of the novels. These assessments will evaluate your reading comprehension. **This test will be given during the first week of the fall semester, regardless of the semester in which you are taking College Prep English 9. Pay attention to the posters which will be placed throughout the building and to the announcements in homeroom to determine when you are to take the exam.** In class, we will be working on our first essay, and these books will provide the basis for the paper. As reading them before the start of class is a prerequisite for enrolling in the course, no additional class time will be given to “catch up” with the rest of the group. **Please note that you are NOT to write the paper over the summer; we will work together on writing strategies and skills within the first week of the course.** Your writing ability will be assessed through the afore-mentioned composition.

Copies of both of these pieces of literature should be readily available. The local bookstores (Borders, Barnes and Noble, etc.) have copies of our summer reading lists, and typically have them on hand. As this assignment is similar to one given in the past, former ninth grade students may also have purchased copies and might be willing to share them with you. The libraries at both the middle school and the high school also have limited copies; you can check them out with approval of the appropriate media specialist in each building. And, of course, the public library is an invaluable resource for reading material.

Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to meeting and working with you in the fall!

Summer Reading

2009-10 School Year

General Requirements

- **Students are responsible for securing reading material** from the public library, online, or in local book stores. You may also want to check out used book stores, garage sales, and the used book sale hosted by the Public Library System. Sharing copies with friends is also a good idea!
- **Students will write an essay** on a specific topic as assigned by the grade level teacher.
- **Typed essays are due on the first day of the fall semester for ALL students** regardless of the semester English is scheduled. EXCEPT CP English 9 classes. Follow the directions on the assignment paper.
- **Students are required to take a comprehension/analysis test** on the reading during the first week of the fall semester (test dates will be announced at the start of the school year).
- Students enrolled in English during second semester must report to the grade level teacher at a designated time to take the test. Listen to homeroom announcements for details.
- Summer reading assignments will count toward the first nine week grading period of the semester.
- **There are no deadline extensions granted for any reason.** All students must meet the deadlines required. **There are no extensions granted for missing the quiz dates.**

Academic Honesty

We encourage you to do some background research on the books/plays assigned and the author and the time period the work was written. Although *Cliff's Notes*, *Spark Notes* and other study materials are beneficial as a **supplement** to the actual reading of the text, they are **not endorsed as a method of replacement for the text itself**. The internet has some great resources to help you understand the works presented. Make use of the library and sources on the internet if you have difficulty with the reading. Study groups and discussions with your friends are also helpful. Please be aware that some teachers do **not** have access to district e-mail over the summer and may be unable to address questions via e-mail.

Reading Journals

Students have found it beneficial to keep a reading log where your thoughts on the plot, character, themes, style of writing etc. can be recorded. Some classes will require you to do additional work with the reading during the semester. It would be helpful to have a journal to refer to as a refresher of the details of the book. It is also helpful to record your questions about the reading in a journal. Doing so will help you present intelligent questions to your class when you return.