

2010 Summer Reading for English II-H

Dear Future Sophomore Honors English Student:

So, you haven't even had a chance to get excited about this school year being over and here I am, pestering you with the required reading for summer. The nerve. And yet, tragically, we mustn't let your brains turn to jell-o during this blissful time.

Fortunately, I have chosen a very summer-friendly (read: short) work for us to tackle. Our focus next year will be American literature, so we will start with a work from our school district's core literature, written by one of the greatest American authors: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (ISBN # 0140177396). You will also choose a book-any book that is of appropriate reading level and approved by your parents- to read and be ready to give a verbal report on it. I want you to choose something you will really enjoy. If you are motivated to improve your analysis and writing, I recommend *Reading Like a Writer* by Francine Prose. This work is a bit challenging, but will change how you think about what you read. However, you are NOT required to read this title. Please pick something meaningful to you.

We will also read *The Crucible*, a play by Arthur Miller (ISBN #0142437336) immediately **upon our return to school** (you are **not** responsible for reading it over the summer). Although written in 1952 and reflective of the politics of the time, it is set during the Salem witch hunts.

If you are unable to get the exact editions of the books indicated by the ISBN numbers, it's not a big deal, but you may be off when I refer to page numbers.

You will need to read *Of Mice and Men* and annotate it in order to prepare for class discussions, assignments and exams. You will need to have a copy of *The Crucible* ready to read and annotate the second day of school. If you are borrowing the books, you will take the same kind of notes on separate paper, making sure to write down page numbers. To remind you of good annotation habits, I have provided a bookmark which you may cut out to use or tape in the cover of the book.

You may e-mail me (address available on the school website) with any questions you have. (I can't guarantee the frequency with which I will be checking my e-mail during the summer, though).

I sincerely look forward to getting to know you; it's the best part of being a teacher. Have a great summer!

Ms. Beeley

Annotating a Book

Before reading:

- ✓ Examine the cover design and text.
- ✓ Read the title and any subtitles.
- ✓ Examine the print pattern (the use of bold, italic, etc.).
- ✓ Examine the genre and structure (novel with chapters, play with acts, etc.).
- ✓ Write some predictions and questions regarding your observations.

During reading:

(Some people prefer to devise a symbol system that works for them).

Mark in the text:

- ✓ Characters
- ✓ Setting
- ✓ Vocabulary (new words or those not immediately clear)
- ✓ Key plot ideas or information

Write comments in the margins:

- ✓ Summarize
- ✓ Predict
- ✓ Formulate opinions/ reactions
- ✓ Make connections
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ Analyze style
- ✓ Recognize repetition

After reading:

- ✓ Reread annotations and draw conclusions.
- ✓ Reread the beginning and ending and try to figure out something new about the text.
- ✓ Examine patterns/ repetitions- determine possible meanings.
- ✓ Reexamine the items in the "Before Reading" section (like the title for instance): how has your understanding increased?

ANNOTATION=COMPREHENSION