



LEHIGH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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June 10, 2009

Dear Cambridge Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Cambridge Program! I am very much looking forward to meeting all of you, and sharing ideas about literature together. On that note, reading over the summer is crucial to your success in school. You are aware that while the summer months are a welcomed opportunity for fun and relaxation, the break from school activities often causes students to experience an interruption in learning upon returning to school in the fall.

In an effort to minimize this effect and to promote learning year round, Lehigh Senior High School has implemented a Summer Reading Program for our Honors/Cambridge students. In each grade level there will be a selection of book titles for summer reading. There is a mapped out assignment (with examples) enclosed that leads each student through the novel. ***(Cambridge students will read and complete the assignment 3 separate texts. Please reference the list for clarification).***

Parents: I hope that you will encourage your child to read over the summer months. Please look over your child's selection and assignment, and remind your child that reading is important and fun. Let's join forces in ensuring that your child receives an enriching, challenging, and supportive approach while completing this summer reading project.

You will find that all of the instructions for the Summer Reading Program are enclosed in detail. You may find any of these titles at neighboring book stores like: Books-A-Million, Barnes and Noble, Borders, and even your local library. Thank you for having a hand in your child's continued education here at Lehigh Senior High School. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at: nataliekl@leeschools.net

Sincerely,

Natalie K. Lafferty

LEHIGH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2009-2010

Please find the course for which you are registered. The book(s) assigned for your course must be read (and the attached assignment must be completed) by the time you return to school. They are available from local vendors, at the public library, and from online resources.

Ninth Grade HONORS (choose one)

Ender's Game
Call of the Wild

Ninth Grade CAMBRIDGE (read all)

Autobiography of a Face
Ender's Game
Call of the Wild

Tenth Grade HONORS (choose one)

Animal Farm
Fahrenheit 451

Eleventh Grade HONORS (choose one)

Slaughterhouse Five
Alas Babylon

Twelfth Grade HONORS

1984

Eleventh & Twelfth Grade ADVANCED PLACEMENT/DUAL ENROLLMENT (read all)

The Color of Water
Angela's Ashes
In Cold Blood

Cheating

It is important to realize that summer reading is an **individual** assignment. Any form of cheating during the completion of this project is not acceptable. All work that appears to be copied, borrowed, or plagiarized will be given a **ZERO**, and the cheater will receive a referral. Lending your work to a classmate is considered cheating and both students will receive a zero.

What is Plagiarism?

If you copy, translate, or paraphrase materials from websites, the library, or other sources in your assignment, without giving full and proper credit to the author, you are plagiarizing. Whenever you use the words or ideas of others, it is academic practice to identify your sources. Merely mentioning an author's name during your writing or changing some words of someone else's work does not mean you are free to copy someone else's effort. As a matter of fact, this is considered illegal and cause for suspension or expulsion from most universities or colleges.

If you find yourself in doubt about using quotations or the use of websites, books, magazines, or other sources, simply do not do it. Take pride in completing your own work!

SUMMER READING 2009

Please read through the assignments before beginning the novel, so you know what to watch for, and what is expected of you. Typed assignments are preferred, but handwritten (neat) will be accepted. Please organize your paper so it is easy to follow, and each section is clearly marked. See Sample Summer Reading Paper below.

When you return to school, there will be additional activities and assessments for which you will be responsible. Your teacher will let you know at the beginning of school what those classroom assignments will be.

Summer Reading is 20% of your first quarter grade.

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT:

- I. Proper heading with your name, date, and novel title.
- II. Character Descriptions: Choose three characters in your novel. For each character list four words which describe the character distinctly. This is a good time to think about vivid vocabulary words and to check the dictionary and thesaurus for ideas. If you use a particular word to describe one character, you may not use that same word to describe another character. Please steer clear of general words like nice or mean or crazy.
- III. Key Passage: Choose the most important passage in the novel (in your opinion). Type it up word-for-word and make sure to identify the speaker(s).
- IV. Key Passage Explanation: In a fully-developed paragraph, explain why your chosen passage is important to understanding the novel. In your explanation, make sure you integrate quotes (actual words or phrases) from the key passage to strengthen your explanation. Often, this selected passage will offer clues to the novel's themes. Explain any mentioned or inferred themes connected to the key passage.
- V. Author Letter: Using your own resources (Internet, inside or back cover of the book, local library) read about the author of your book. Then, write a letter to the author. Your letter should demonstrate knowledge of the author through your comments and questions. Explain to the author what you liked about the book – be specific. Next, explain what you did not like about the book, or what you didn't understand. Finally, tell the author what you would like to see changed in the book, or give ideas for a sequel. Be sure to sign your name.
- VI. Discussion/Essay Questions: Write three questions that a teacher might ask you about the novel or play either in class or for an essay. These questions should be thought-provoking and almost always take more than one line to type because they ask readers to combine more than one idea. Just *writing* these types of questions helps you to anticipate what questions might be asked of you in class discussion or on a test and encourages you to think more insightfully about the book.

Sample Summer Reading Paper

Jennifer Crowley

August 1, 2009

English 10: Mrs. Adams

To Kill a Mockingbird Summer Reading Assignment

Characters Descriptions:

Scout Finch: strong-willed, tomboyish, loyal, quick-tempered

Jem Finch: thoughtful, steadfast, imaginative, maturing

Atticus Finch: just, courageous, insightful, determined

Boo Radley: reclusive, lonely, simple, protective

Key Passage:

From Chapter 3, page 30:

Atticus: "First of all," he said. "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Key Passage Explanation:

Atticus' entire philosophy of life seems to be summed up in his words to Scout. To be an objective and just community member, one must be able to "climb into" another person's "skin" and "walk around in it" or be able to see issues from another person's perspective. Atticus offers these words to Scout after her first day of formal schooling in the first grade when she is upset that the teacher doesn't understand her efforts to explain Walter Cunningham's financial situation. These words from Atticus begin her first lessons in life. Through the course of the novel, Atticus will show the children his compassion for people different from their family, his attempts to "climb into someone's skin and walk around in it" when he defends an innocent black man, Tom Robinson, against a town's wishes, and when he instructs the children to be respectful and compassionate toward Boo Radley, a neighborhood recluse. One of the main themes of the novel is understanding and accepting people different from oneself.

Author Letter :

Dear Ms. Lee,

I want to thank you for giving America your novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I can relate to both main protagonists, Atticus and Scout Finch. I like that the characters are based on your father and you growing up in Monroeville, Alabama. Having written this following the Scottsboro Boys Trial and at the very earliest stages of the Civil Rights Movement, you deserve the Pulitzer Prize for being a fearless individualist and writing what most people at that time dared not to write.

These characters are particularly appealing to me, as they are individualists in a mostly unforgiving and slow-to-change small town in an equally slow-moving South. Atticus and Scout refuse to be like the other prejudiced town folk and yet manage to be included within its community. Eventually, they bring about change to the town through their actions and convictions. What I also like about *To Kill a Mockingbird* is that it encourages open-mindedness to "outcasts." Tom Robinson and Boo Radley are both outcasts throughout the novel. Tom and Boo are both victimized by and made to live apart from the community and society unfairly: Tom as the falsely accused rapist of a young white woman, and Boo Radley as the outsider and former teenage delinquent. These characters demonstrate the power of change through consistently believing in what's right and just: and they are ultimately freed (Robinson was acquitted and Radley saved Jem's life.)

Overall, the novel does urge an end to racism and prejudice, but it bothered me a little that it seems too neatly wrapped up and almost too sentimental. While these characters grow up and mature, their characters do not seem to change. Atticus is still a soft-spoken, Southern gentleman lawyer defending those wrongly accused, and Scout remains the open-minded individual that opened the novel.

I would have liked to see an epilogue at the end to show how the characters turned out and how the town and its people changed as a result of this trial. I think it would be really interesting to read a sequel and find out what happens with Atticus and Scout.

Thank you, again, for this great American novel.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Crowley

Discussion/Essay Questions:

1. ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** deals with the issue of racial equality, but Harper Lee also includes the strong story line of Boo Radley. How does the Tom Robinson trial combine with the Boo Radley story thread to make a novel that speaks powerfully of more than just racial equality?
2. What do Jem and Scout finally understand about their father: what he stands for in their own lives and in the lives of many of the townspeople?
3. Discuss the three different views of Tom Robinson's trial and its outcome as seen by Atticus, Jem and Scout, and the townspeople.