

Summer Reading 2009: English IV Honors

Mrs. Janet Gubser (gubserj@cces.org)

English IV Honors is an advanced course that is predominantly 20th century world literature, but includes pieces of literature from other periods and multiple cultures as well. To begin this year we will be working with a range of pieces

- ❖ *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy
- ❖ *The Plague* by Albert Camus
- ❖ *The Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks
- ❖ *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder

You will need to purchase a large spiral notebook for these assignments; please use the standard size and write your name neatly on the cover. You will begin each assignment on a fresh page and label each as they are titled on this sheet. You will then **WRITE** out the assignments (no typing will be accepted) and then skip a page or two between books. The order in which you read the books is immaterial; however, the assignments for each book must be together and all must be labeled clearly so that I can grade them. Do not move to the second section of the notebook; that will be used later.

Note: If these assignments are not completed as directed, points will be deducted. The assignments for each book will be worth 50 points (200 points total for the notebook) and the test on summer reading will be worth 200 points. The test will be given the first full week of school and the assignments will be due at that time. These will not be the only assignments based on the summer reading, so please read carefully and take notes/mark your books.

(As an honors student there is an expectation that minimum work is not an option.)

A. *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy

1. MLA citation for this book
2. List each of the eight men whom Kennedy profiles. Note in a short paragraph what this man did that Kennedy so admired.
3. Make a power point presentation in which you profile a figure whom you consider courageous.* Your presentation should be 5-10 slides and take 5-10 minutes to present to the class.

* *In the first weeks of school you will be asked to write a researched essay on this person so please keep all of your sources and notes.*

B. *The Plague* by Albert Camus

1. MLA citation for the book
2. Describe the setting of the book
3. It has been noted that there are several basic responses to tragedy:
 - * Run/save oneself
 - * Remain passive/despair
 - * Address the problem correctly
 - * Try to help others
 - * Make a profit from the suffering of others

Note which of the main characters fit each of the criteria and then describe, using specific references to the book, how the character fits the criteria .

4. Compare the two sermons by Paneloux.
 - a. What is the message of each?
 - b. What view of Christianity do they present?
 - c. Is there a change from first to the second?
 - d. Is what happens to the priest justified?

C. *The Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks

1. MLA citation for the book
2. Describe the setting of the book
3. List main characters (3) and describe each with a short paragraph
4. Make a list of minor characters (at least 5) and make a note about the character's place/use in the novel
5. Look up the town of Eyam (document the source). How much of the book is based on fact? (1 solid paragraph) Are the residents heroic? Why?

D. *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder

1. MLA citation for the book
2. Describe the setting of the book

3. List main characters and describe each with 2+ sentences
4. What is Brother Juniper's purpose in writing his book? Does he succeed? What does he learn?
5. This book is a series of vignettes. Use the setting, details, characters, and style to create a vignette of your own for another character in the book. The character does not necessarily have to die. Your work should be 2 or more typed pages (they should be stapled in to your journal).

Since it is difficult to remember details several weeks after reading a book, you may write some personal notes on plot, conflicts, etc. in your notebook. Simply label the pages on which you take these notes "personal notes" so that I will not be confused when grading.

Please be aware that I take academic integrity VERY seriously; do not compromise yours by taking words or ideas from other people without proper credit. I expect you to do your own work on this and every assignment.

***** You must pledge each assignment.**