

**English Department Summer Reading Assignments (Honors and AP students only)**  
**Please note: Students in either Honors or AP level classes have additional summer reading responsibilities.**

**Freshmen**

**Literary Arts (011)**

Dear Literary Arts Students,

For your summer reading, which needs to be completed *prior to the first day of school*, please read both *The Odyssey* by Homer, translated by Robert Fitzgerald (PLEASE check that it is the *required* Fitzgerald translation – no other translators) and *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. **Please purchase print copies of each book.**

Theme: The Hero and His Journey

Response Journal

As you read each book in preparation for the start of your Freshman English class, please keep a journal in which you respond to the following questions:

Each of the main characters – Odysseus, Telémakhos, Gene, and Finny undertakes a journey.

1. Identify what kind of journey/journeys each character undertakes. Does he successfully complete these journeys?

2. Identify the conflicts – both internal and external – each character meets and must attempt to overcome in an effort to complete his/her journey.

3. Explain what traits each character must possess to overcome these conflicts? Is he successful?

4. Explain how each character changes as a result of his journey.

5. Include in your journal responses specific references to the text and a total of 10 direct quotes that support your observations. These references and quotes should come from the beginning, middle, and end of the text. Be sure to include page numbers so that you can easily locate your supporting material.

You will need your response journal for class discussion during the month of September. **Your journal, typed or handwritten, must reflect your own original observations.**

If you have any questions, you can contact at [kirschel@echs.com](mailto:kirschel@echs.com). Please identify the subject of your message as Summer Reading. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely, Ms. Kirsche

## **SOPHOMORES**

### **Honors American Literature (061)**

For your summer reading assignment, which needs to be completed *prior to the first day of school*, you are to read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. **Please purchase a print copy of the text.**

As you read the text, respond thoughtfully to the following four prompts in a summer reading journal. **Your journal, typed or handwritten, must reflect your own original observations.**

#### **Response Journal Prompts:**

1. Analyze how the setting influences the reader's understanding of the narrator and characters. There must be at least one example from each chapter.
2. Identify the most significant quote from each chapter and analyze how it shows the concept of dreams, and what it reveals about the character. Discuss at least two different characters in total. Analyze if Gatsby ever reaches his dream at any point in the novel.
3. Compare the attitudes the narrator has regarding East Egg verses West Egg. You must use at least four quotes.
4. Analyze the type of conflict between Tom and Gatsby and why you believe Fitzgerald contrasts their characters so much. You must use at least four quotes.

Be sure to have passages in the beginning, middle and end. It **MUST** be original ideas and work. If you have any questions, you can contact at [defilippes@echs.com](mailto:defilippes@echs.com). Please identify the subject of your message as Summer Reading.

Have a lovely summer!

Miss DeFilippe

## **JUNIORS**

### **AP Language and Composition (030)**

For your summer reading assignment, which needs to be completed *prior to the first day of school*, you are to read *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl and maintain a response journal.

As you read through each section of *Man's Search for Meaning*, respond thoughtfully to the following questions in your summer reading journal. For each of the four parts listed below, write 2-3 handwritten or typed pages and incorporate direct quotes/citations from each section of the text.

**Part One:** Consider Nietzsche's quote, "He who has a WHY to live can bear almost any HOW." How do Frankl's experiences in Part One illustrate this quote? How does Frankl find "a WHY to live" in Part One?

**Part Two:** How does Frankl explain the purpose of love? of suffering? Do you agree or disagree with his perspective? Explain and provide personal experiences to reinforce your argument.

**Part Three:** What does Frankl mean by "tragic optimism" and how does he "make a case" for it as a life perspective? Do you agree or disagree with his perspective? Explain and provide personal experiences to reinforce your argument.

**Text as a Whole:** Based on your reading of this text, explain and justify your answer to the question: Are human beings, by nature, good?

**Journals may be handwritten or typed, but they must reflect your original ideas.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at [kirschel@echhs.com](mailto:kirschel@echhs.com). Please identify the subject of your message as Summer Reading. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely, Ms. Kirsche

### **Honors English III (051)**

For your summer reading assignment, which needs to be completed *prior to the first day of school*, you are to read *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote and address the text in a response journal.

As you read through each section of *In Cold Blood*, you will write a response based on the following topics:

Part 1: Analyze both Dick and Perry's choices and actions leading up to the murder. What characteristics are revealed in each man and how does it contribute to their relationship?

Part 2: Examine the immediate effects of the murder on both the town of Holcomb and the murderers. What psychological trauma is experienced and how has it shaped the outcome of this section of the story?

Part 3: Evaluate a possible theme that either appears or is strengthened in this section of the text and explain how either Dick, Perry, or Dewey are connected to it.

Part 4: Through the description of the trial, what statement is Capote trying to make on the fairness of the law?

Whole Text: Examine Capote's writing style. Then, evaluate it. What kind of language does he incorporate? How does he deliver the story? Is this method of delivery effective in conveying Capote's purpose?

For each of the 5 parts above, write 1-2 pages and incorporate direct quotes/citations from each section of the text. **Journals may be handwritten or typed, but they must reflect your original ideas.**

If you have any questions, please email [taylorj@echhs.com](mailto:taylorj@echhs.com)

Have a great summer!

Ms. Taylor

**SENIORS**  
**AP English (060)**

For your summer reading assignment, which needs to be completed *prior to the first day of school*, please read *Atonement* by Ian McEwan. Please purchase a print copy of the text.

When you get back to school you will be writing a paper on the novel, after a week-long discussion. Make sure you do a careful reading of the book and be prepared for this week of discussion. Taking notes on the book as you read is not required but will be helpful for when we start because there is a good chance that I will be grading class discussions (so I expect substantial contributions from you). Any questions? Ms. Taylor will check her school email (taylorj@echs.com) from time to time over the summer vacation. Happy reading!

**Honors Senior English (041)**

For your summer reading assignment, which needs to be completed *prior to the first day of school*, please read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. While there is no written journal to complete, please be prepared for an assessment on the text in the first week of school. We will use Doerr's novel as the basis for your first composition assignment in Senior English.

If you have any questions, please contact me at kirschel@echs.com. Please identify the subject of your message as Summer Reading. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely, Ms. Kirsche