



WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

"Expectations for Excellence"

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District 88

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May 2021

Dear Student:

The English Department at Willowbrook High School would like to welcome you to English 9 Honors. We believe that the reading of challenging literature helps students become critical thinkers and proficient writers, so you will be required to read one allegorical novel during the summer. Please come to school in August ready to intelligently discuss the summer reading selection.

This year's summer reading selection is:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho (ISBN-13: 978-0062315007)

***The English Department has ordered the novel for you, and we are sending you the novel directly from Barnes and Noble. If you are added to the course AFTER May 14, 2021, then you will need to purchase it on your own.**

You must complete the following by the first Friday of the 2021-2022 school year:

1. A close reading of the text: This means that you will read the text with a pen in hand and circle unfamiliar words, underline important passages, and make notes or ask questions in the margins. You will need to have the text in class when school starts. *It may be necessary to do some background research to understand unfamiliar references
2. Write a two-paragraph response explaining the main theme of this novel. What is Paulo Coelho's message to his readers?
3. Write ten thoughtful and open-ended discussion questions for the text. These questions will be used during our inclass Socratic Seminar discussion.

*Please read the attached pages carefully for assignment details.

If you misplace your summer reading assignment, you can access this information on the District 88 website. Go to www.dupage88.net, then click on WBHS (top right), then ENGLISH (left menu), then click the file "9 Honors Summer Letter 2021-2022" at the bottom of the page.

Finally, we have attached 2020/2021 Willowbrook English Department Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy/Contract. Please sign and date the policy and return it to your teacher during the first week of classes.

We hope you will find this novel interesting and challenging.

Sincerely,

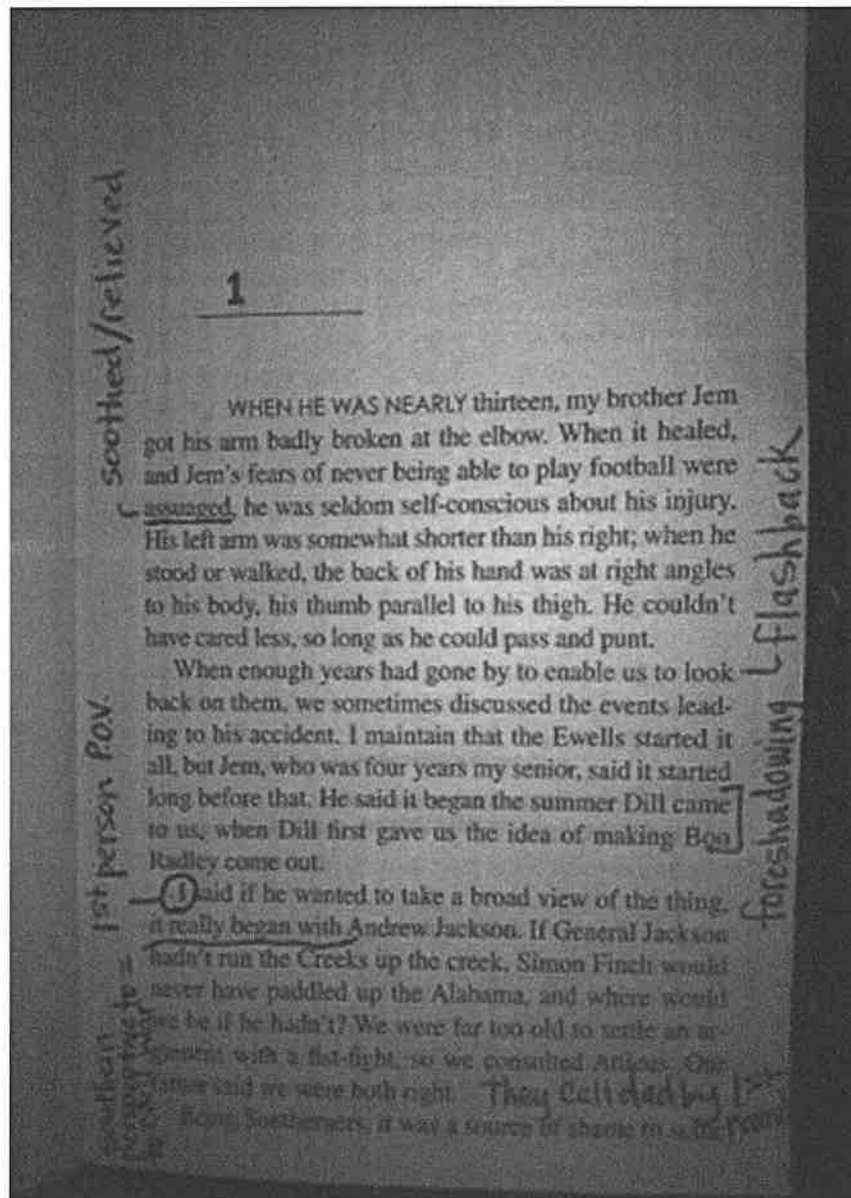
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English 9 Honors Summer Reading
Sample Close Reading of the Text

As a student in an honors-level class, you will need to learn how to annotate a text. Annotation means taking close reading notes right in the text by underlining, highlighting, and writing commentary in the margins. These annotations will help to support your discussion remarks in class and enhance your written analysis of the literature. You will be expected to annotate most literature at the honors-level; texts are often checked and graded for evidence of close reading.

On the following page is an explanation of annotation and a list of symbols to use while annotating. Below is an opening page from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* as a sample annotation model:



English 9 Honors Summer Reading Close Reading Suggestions

Take notes in the text while you read. You will read more carefully and think more about the meaning of the text if you take time while reading to jot down your ideas. During discussions or while writing about the text, these notes will help you find the evidence that supports your claims. Some specific forms of responses include noting:

- What you do not understand. Almost anything in the text might puzzle you: a word or a passage, an action, or a statement. A question mark or a few words about why you do not understand something is usually all you need to write down. If you come across a word that is new to you, circle it and then look it up in a dictionary and write a brief definition on the page where the word appears. If the word is a familiar one used in an unfamiliar way, try to decide how the author is using it in the story (context clues) and make a note.
- What you agree or disagree with. Stories often evoke strong feelings in readers, so the feelings you have about a story can be important clues to its meaning. Make a note if you like or do not like what is happening in a particular passage, or if the story contradicts your own experience. You may use icons or symbols, such as “☺” to note something that you like.
- Connections between different parts of the story. You may notice that a word or phrase is repeated several times, or you may see a pattern in a character’s actions. Use a “=” to identify connections.
- What seems important? This is very much a gut-level kind of feeling. The more you read, the better you will become at identifying things that are significant. Generally speaking, anything that an author repeats is worth noting!
- A striking, memorable, or unusual use of language. I always note literary elements when I read them (imagery, metaphor, simile, personification, etc.)
- The motive for a character’s actions or statements
- A major theme or idea

As part of your close reading notes, you can use the following labeling system to note questions or key information:

? = Something you wonder about or do not understand

C = Characterization details

S = Setting details

P = Significant events in the plot of the story

Sy = Symbol

M = Metaphors

I = Imagery

T = Themes

*These symbols will help to highlight important information in the texts that you read now and in the future.

English 9 Honors Summer Reading
Theme Analysis Writing Assignment

This written assignment will require you to follow a theme in the text. You need to complete the reading of the text before you write this response. You will then write a **two-paragraph response (in MLA format) analyzing a theme** present in the text.

Your written responses must be complete and ready to submit before class begins on the first Friday of the 2021-2022 school year. Be prepared to discuss your responses with your classmates.

Your written response must:

- Identity and analyze one theme present in the text
- Include quotations and paraphrased ideas from the text to support the theme you are following (with proper parenthetical citations)
- Be two-full body paragraphs, typed and double-spaced (12 Times New Roman font), with an MLA header
 - Each paragraph should have a strong topic sentence and detailed analysis
 - This is not a complete essay, so you do not need to have introduction or conclusion paragraphs.
 - Each of your 2 paragraphs should offer a different perspective on one of the themes that you saw emerge

Some possible themes from *The Alchemist* include:

- Dreams
- Fate
- Unity of spirit
- Self-Discovery

English 9 Honors Summer Reading
Discussion Questions Assignment

You are required to write **ten open ended discussion questions**. Developing discussion questions for class will allow you to understand the complex text on a deeper level. By analyzing and evaluating ideas within the text and formulating questions, you are preparing yourself to engage in an active class discussion.

To receive full credit for this assignment, you must:

- Write questions from a variety of chapters and ideas found throughout the text.
- Vary the question format; do not begin each question with “Do you think...”
- Create “open-ended” discussion questions that will foster class discussion.
- It is required that you **use Bloom’s Taxonomy question starters for at least 5 of your discussion questions**.
- It might also be helpful to refer to particular passages or quotes within the texts for some of your questions.

Bloom’s Taxonomy Higher Level Question Starters:

Analyzing: analyze, consider, compare, contrast, criticize, distinguish, examine, question, and explain.

Evaluating: assess, argue, defend, determine, judge, predict, rate, support, evaluate and debate.

- Type your questions and have them ready to submit before class on the first Friday of the 2021-2022 school year.
- Be original: Ask questions that you will truly enjoy discussing. You will not receive credit for questions that were copied from an online source, study guide, or another student.
- You may not do this assignment with another student and turn in the same work. This will be considered plagiarism.

2020/2021 Willowbrook English Department
Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy/Contract

Plagiarism is a violation of school rules and results in the cancelation of all grades associated with the assignment. A serious offense is grounds for suspension or expulsion at many colleges and has derailed the career of a number of academics and politicians.

Technically, plagiarism is the act of claiming another person's writing or ideas as one's own without giving credit to that original author. Even taking an idea from someone else and including it in your paper without a citation after it is plagiarism. This includes taking another student's work. Be careful, ask when you are not sure, and lean over backwards to give credit where credit is due. Also, if you are using websites that are created to cheat, copy, purchase, and/or take essays, then you will receive a zero.

The following is the definition for plagiarism according to Black's Law Dictionary.

Plagiarism: The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's mind.

To be liable for plagiarism, it is not necessary to exactly duplicate another's literacy work, it being sufficient if unfair use of such work is made by lifting of substantial portion thereof.

To avoid plagiarism, be sure to conform to the following (adapted from Lester's Guide of the Research Paper):

1. Acknowledge all borrowed material, whether it is a direct quotation or paraphrasing of another's idea. Introduce the information with the authority's name and include the source of information in a properly formatted parenthetical citation.
2. Always put quotation marks around direct quotations, along with citing them.
3. Simply rearranging material which is not originally yours into your own words is still plagiarism; be sure to cite the ideas of others clearly.
4. Include documentation for every piece of borrowed material.
5. Include a properly formatted works cited entry in the "Works Cited" page for each source that is used in your assignment; do not include works that you did not cite.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the written work. Use of another person's work or ideas without acknowledgement will always result in the aforementioned consequences. Examples including musical compositions, artwork, projects, computer software, websites, peer's work, etc.

The consequences for plagiarized work will be a zero on the assignment and a Dean's referral.

Contract: I have read this information sheet. I fully understand my responsibility to cite all sources and the devastating consequences to my English grade (zeroes on all related grades) if I plagiarized or in any way fail to give credit.

Student's Printed Name

Signature

Date

Contract: I have received this policy and discussed it with my student. I understand the consequences of failing to honor this policy.

Parent's/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date