

Honors English 10 Overview & Summer Assignment

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Class Objectives: The goal and purpose of this class is to prepare students for continued success in AP English classes and college. Students will engage in advanced level reading of complex texts and learn to analyze them for deeper understanding of content, purpose, and use of language. They will also write repetitively to produce more mature and purposeful prose, particularly tailored to the expectations of the AP English exams they will take in the upcoming years. In the simplest terms, the level and rigor of the work in this class is comparable to that of a freshman English class in college, just more teacher guided.

First things first...

1. If you haven't already received an invitation from me to join Honors English 10: Summer Edition on Google Classroom, you need to join ASAP. The code is whxllx6.
2. You need to sign up for the summer Remind. Text the message @c3d2d86 to the number 81010.

Summer Reading Assignment

Text: The Devil and the White City by Erik Larson (purchase online or at any major bookstore)

Published in 2002, this No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller tells the true story of the famous 1893 Chicago World's Fair, focusing on two major players: Daniel H. Burnham, the noted architect responsible for the fair's construction; and Dr. Henry Howard Holmes, the infamous serial killer that used the fair to attract his victims and hide his sinister acts.

Assignment & Assessment Overview: Using the chart provided on Google Classroom, complete a **dialectical journal** as you read. (If you do not have access to a computer to fill in the chart via Google docs, then you may complete it neatly on notebook paper.) This will be due at the beginning of your first day in my class. You will also be tested on the novel and write an in-class essay on the first two days of class.

What exactly is a dialectical journal? A dialectical journal is a record of conversation that you have with yourself about what you are reading. It highlights questions, observations, connections, and reflections that you have as your read. (It's also commonly referred to as a reader-response journal or double-entry journal.) There will be two parts to your journal; quoted passages and your responses to them.

What's the point of a dialectical journal? This process is a good way to make your reading more focused, purposeful, and analytical. You're not just reading to comprehend a plot, anymore. You're reading to notice patterns in the text, to identify the author's stylistic choices, to analyze how characters are developed and portrayed, to understand the author's purpose and themes, to make connections between the text to the world outside of the text, etc.

How do I choose passages? Look for passages that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking, or puzzling. Your passages should reflect a variety of close reading elements. Suggestions include, but aren't limited to,...

- Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices: similes/metaphors, imagery, foils, tone, mood, point of view, foreshadowing, etc.
- Character descriptions that are interesting or very revealing about the character
- Passages that make you realize something you hadn't before
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- Structural shifts or shocking turns in plot
- Passages that help convey a theme in the novel
- Patterns: recurring images, ideas, symbols

What should my responses look like? Corresponding to your quoted passages, your responses should demonstrate a variety of thoughts. The most important thing to remember is that your responses should be specific and detailed.

- Do **NOT** just restate or summarize the passage. (i.e. *What this means is...*) That's not reflection or analysis.
- Some response starters could be...
 - Larson (the author) is using this detail to portray (Character) as...
 - Larson is trying to make the reader feel...
 - Why does Larson/(Character)...
 - This use of a metaphor/simile, comparing ... to ..., is meant to...
 - This (literary device) is particularly effective here because...
 - I'm starting to like/dislike (Character) because...
 - This reminds me of (a connection outside of text) because...
 - I think this passage helps to develop the theme of...
 - Now, I understand...
 - This setting/event seems to be symbolic of...
 - This detail seems to foreshadow...
 - I don't understand why...
 - This is interesting because...

Other specific requirements for passages and responses?

- 30 quoted passages in the left column with responses to the passages in the right column.
- Passages should cover the entirety of the novel, meaning don't use too many from one section. (There are 57 chapters.)
- Use quotation marks and an in-text citation with each passage. Since we're only working with one book, the author's last name is not needed in the in-text citation, just the page number. (Refer to my example below.)
- Responses should consist of 4-7 COMPLETE, THOROUGH sentences. If the majority of your responses are 4 simple sentences, that shows poor close reading, which will be reflected in your grade.

▸ Check your spelling, punctuation, and grammar! It is part of your grade, and with so many electronic grammar applications, there's just no excuse.

Example (my chosen passage can't be re-used by you):

<i>Quoted Passage</i>	<i>Response</i>
1. "He [Holmes] did not seem at all concerned when now and then a guest checked out without advance notice, leaving her bills unpaid. That he often smelled vaguely of chemicals - that in fact the building as a whole had a medicinal odor - bothered no one. He was, after all, a physician, and his building had a pharmacy on the ground floor" (245).	1. These details seem to be foreshadowing Holmes as a serial killer. What true business man wouldn't be bothered by customers repeatedly ditching their bills, unless their primary drive was something other than money? Also, the fact that the hotel had an odor of chemicals and medicine is just creepy. Though the odd smell was explained away to guests by Holmes' pharmacy on the ground floor, I'm thinking the smell came from more sinister acts that took place down there.

WARNING! I make it a point to study the novel information provided on Cliff Notes, Spark Notes, Shmoop, and the like. While these sites can serve as great secondary study resources, if you rely on them to do the reading and work for you, then you will most likely perform very poorly on the test and essay at the beginning of school. Blunt truth - If you're not willing to force yourself to complete this summer reading and assignment yourself, then you do NOT need to enroll in this class!