

May 2021

Dear Incoming Pre-DP Students and Parents,

Welcome to Seminole High School! We are so excited to spend the next four years with you and your family! My name is Ms. Gentry, and I am the ninth grade Pre-DP English teacher. I want to take the opportunity to introduce you to the summer reading assignment and some important information for the 2021-2022 school year.

You will find the summer reading assignment on the pages that follow. Please carefully read the directions page as it contains important information on my expectations for the assignment. The summer reading assignment is REQUIRED, and it must be completed before the first day of school. The students will turn the assignment in on Monday, August 16, the second week of school. I will give directions on how to submit the assignment when the school year officially begins.

We will read several novels, plays, and short stories throughout the school year. Some texts will only be used in class while others will require students to have their own copies for reading at home. I will gladly allow students to borrow copies of the texts from me; however, I do strongly encourage students to purchase their own copies of some of the texts, if possible. This allows students to annotate as they read to provide better comprehension and analysis of the story. I will provide that reading list to the students in August. We will also work on writing, grammar, and vocabulary study throughout the school year.

I have provided my school supply list below. Each student must have a binder that is designated only for English class. Students will receive handouts that they will need to keep for all four years of high school, so it is important that these items are kept in their own space.

Needed Supplies:

- 3-ring binder (1-inch min.) – may NOT be shared with another class
- Set of 5 dividers
- 4 highlighters (any variety of different colors)
- Colored pencils
- Ruler
- Blue or black ink pens
- College-ruled paper

If you have any questions or concerns about my course, the summer reading, or the information provided in this letter, please feel free to contact me at leah_gentry@scps.k12.fl.us.

Sincerely,

Ms. Leah Gentry

Pre-DP 9th Grade - Summer Reading

All incoming Pre-DP ninth graders are required to complete a summer reading assignment as preparation for the new school year. Students should read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and thoroughly **answer the reader response questions** for each chapter.

This novel is available in the public library and bookstores. It may be beneficial for students to purchase their own copy of the novel, as they are encouraged to write observations, connections, and summaries in the margins as they read to support their comprehension and analysis.

Expectations of quality:

- The assignment should be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt font.
- Any included quotation from the novel should be accompanied by the page number where the quotation is found. Students should put the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence that contains the quote.
This is an example of how to properly incorporate “a quote” with the page number at the end of the sentence (39).
- It should be clear that significant thought and effort were put into the assignment.

The required assignment must be completed before the first day of school. It will be the first graded assignment of the school year, and class activities and discussion will focus on the novel. The assignment will be collected on Monday, August 16, 2021.

All responses will be submitted to Turnitin, a plagiarism checker, during the first week of school. Students MAY NOT borrow any material from the internet or any other source; doing so WILL result in a zero for the assignment.

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Gentry at
leah_gentry@scps.k12.fl.us

Pre-DP Summer Reading
***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**
Reader Response Questions

Respond to each of the questions as you finish reading the accompanying chapter(s). Your response should be typed in complete sentences. Content and personal reflections are most important; however, spelling and grammar should not be ignored.

To receive full credit, you should fully address the question(s) using relevant examples from life and/or quotes and details from the text. The length of your responses will vary.

You do not need to retype the questions since your responses should adequately address the questions; however, please number your responses 1-24.

1. Chapter 1

Describe the setting of the novel. In what time period is it set? Describe the location.

2. Chapter 1

The Radley family is discussed at length in this chapter. Who is Boo Radley? How is he perceived by those in the town?

3. Chapter 2

What is one word you would use describe Scout Finch? Explain why you chose that word. Use a quote from the novel to support your response.

4. Chapter 3

Atticus explains to Scout that “[y]ou 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.” Describe a time when your perception of a person changed as a result of getting to know them better.

5. Chapters 3-4

In what ways are Walter Cunningham and Burris Ewell similar? In what ways are they different? Use examples from the novel to support your response.

6. Chapter 6

Describe what happens when the kids sneak into the Radley’s backyard. What was a time when you did something you knew you shouldn’t and thought you got away with it?

7. Chapter 7

Jem and Scout find many “treasures” in the knot-hole of the tree in front of the Radley’s house. Which “treasure” is the most significant? Explain why. What is an object you most treasure?

8. Chapter 10

Atticus tells Jem, “Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit ‘em, but remember it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” What does the mockingbird symbolize? At this point in the novel, who is a “mockingbird”?

9. Chapter 11

What lesson do Jem and Scout learn as a result of spending time with Mrs. Dubose? Why does Atticus say that Mrs. Dubose is the “bravest person [he] ever knew”? Describe a time when you made a mistake and learned a valuable lesson as a result.

10. Chapter 12

What is Harper Lee’s purpose in including the church scene involving Lula? Beyond religion, what is the church’s function within the Black community?

11. Chapter 13

Aunt Alexandra comes to stay with the Finches so that Scout has “some female influence.” Who have been Scout’s main female influences up to this point? What impact have they had on Scout? Describe an important adult figure in your life and their influence on you.

12. Chapter 15

Discuss the scene at the jail. How is the situation resolved? What does this reveal about the concept of maturity in relation to both Scout and Jem?

13. Chapter 16

Why is it significant that Atticus is appointed to the Tom Robinson case? What does this reveal about Atticus’s moral character? Describe a time when you were required to do something that you did not want to do and how you responded as a result.

14. Chapter 16

Describe the layout of the courthouse. What is significant about where Jem and Scout sit?

15. Chapters 18-19

Compare the testimony of Mayella Ewell to Tom Robinson. What are the inconsistencies?

16. Chapter 20

What is Dolphus Raymond’s purpose of lying? When was a time that you “bent the truth” for what you felt was a good reason?

17. Chapter 21-23

What is the Black community’s reaction to the verdict? Bob Ewell’s reaction? Jem’s reaction? Your personal reaction?

18. Chapter 24-25

Describe what happens to Tom when he tries to escape. What is symbolic about the way Mr. Underwood describes Tom’s death?

19. Chapter 24-26

What are two ways in which Scout has changed since the beginning of the novel?

20. Chapter 26

What is ironic about Miss Gates’ lesson to her class? What does this reveal about society during this time period? What is an example from our current society that is similar to the ideals portrayed in this chapter?

21. Chapter 28

Describe the situation as Jem and Scout walk home from the Halloween Pageant. How does the story being told from Scout’s point of view affect our understanding of the scene?

22. Chapter 30

What do we learn about Atticus’ views on justice in this chapter?

23. Chapter 31

Describe what Scout sees while standing on Boo Radley’s porch.

24. Chapters 28-31

Re-read the first two paragraphs in Chapter 1. How do these two paragraphs relate to chapters 28-31?