

ENGLISH INTRODUCTION

sophomore honors

Hays High School • 2300 East 13th St. • Hays, Kansas 67601

To: Sophomore Honors Students

Welcome to Honors English III! I am so glad you have decided to continue on your honors journey. So, what can you expect with this journey? Expect to hit the ground running! Starting in August you will write, read, write about the reading, write about your thoughts, laugh, and write about the laughter! You will focus on how to write for the reader. These writings will have rubrics tied to them that include the 6-trait +1 writing model, plus some specific criteria based on the type of essay with an emphasis on proper grammar usage. Most people know I love teaching the classics. It is because classics are classics for a reason! Their universal truths transcend time. With that being said, your first required read is, you guessed it, a classic.

Required Summer Reading: As you analyze literary and writing techniques the authors implement, you will find new ways to express your own ideas. I hope you will find my energy, my corny sense of humor and my excitement over the written word entertaining and educational. While I do have fun with the language, I still expect you to meet the challenges I will throw at you. One of the challenges I have is for you to read the REQUIRED novella—**John Steinbeck's *The Pearl***—this summer. At the beginning of the year, paragraph responses to the text will be assessed on the first day to evaluate your analytical writing skills as well as a comprehension test over the novella. The next challenge involves your reading two additional Steinbeck novellas: *The Red Pony* and *Tortilla Flat*. These last two books are OPTIONAL readings; you only have ONE REQUIRED read: ***The Pearl***.

Expectations: My expectations are high and will require you to have good time management and communication skills. Not only will you have exercises and discussions over classic literature, but you will also work on grammatical concepts, vocabulary skills and ACT drills. Since most of you have college as your goal, you can expect a rigorous curriculum. This is not to overload you with busy work; it is the exact opposite. I want you to leave my classroom as strong readers, but more importantly strong communicators and writers. Strong writers know and understand grammar rules. Please understand that an *A* equals excellence, and only quality work will result in that grade. The grade of *B* indicates that you have gone beyond the expectations, but not quite to the top; then the grade of *C* means that you have the basic idea, meeting the objectives of the assignment. I have high expectations for each one of you—reach them!

As we move into the school year, you will find that the literature deals with reality, life, love, fantasy, conformity, death, happiness, racism, isolation/alienation, abuse of power, choices...that not all literature ends happily. The literature in class is used as a tool for discussion, a tool for writing and analysis, and a tool for learning about communications within and about the human condition.

Anticipated Literature (will read or be exposed to)—list may change

The Pearl- John Steinbeck (Summer Reading)

Tortilla Flat- John Steinbeck

The Red Pony- John Steinbeck

Of Mice and Men—John Steinbeck

Lord of the Flies—William Golding

Animal Farm—George Orwell

Frankenstein—Mary Shelley

The Scarlet Letter—Nathaniel Hawthorne

Taming of the Shrew—Shakespeare

Poetry/Essays/Non-Fiction Literature

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at vschumacher@usd489.com. Have fun this summer! Remember the summer reading: ***The Pearl*** (*The Red Pony* and *Tortilla Flat* as optional reads). If you need to borrow a copy, there are available ones to check out in the counseling office at Hays High over the summer.

See you in August!

-- Mrs. Schumacher