

# HONORS ENGLISH 9

## Summer Reading Assignment

Please note the following information and assignments on your summer reading project:

**1. *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar.**

You do not need to annotate or complete a written assignment – just read and enjoy it. We will do some work with this book during the first week of school. You may use either a hard copy or electronic edition of this novel.

**2. *Great Expectations (unabridged)* by Charles Dickens**

You will need to both annotate the novel and complete a written assignment for this part of the summer reading project. Both parts of this project are explained below and are due on the first day of class. In addition, we will spend about a week at the beginning of the school year working with the novel in class. It is thus very important that you read, annotate, and answer all extended response questions.

If this is your first time reading a full length novel by Charles Dickens, you may very well find it challenging. During the school year we will be reading a 2<sup>nd</sup> novel by Dickens called *A Tale of Two Cities*. By reading *Great Expectations* over the summer, it is likely that you will have an easier time comprehending our additional reading of Dickens later in the first semester.

## **1. Annotate the book.**

Be an active reader. Approach your reading with an analytical eye. This means not just reading the book for the story. Rather, look for the themes, big ideas, and the answers to these essential questions:

- a. Is there one definition of innocence or guilt?
- b. Are the expectations we set for ourselves realistic?

I am sure that you have annotated in the past and perhaps even have your own system to do so. Here are some general guidelines:

- Take notes and highlight. As you detect significant issues and/or themes, or as you have a reaction to something that you read, write it down in a notebook, jot notes in the margin and highlight passages that support your observations. You may want to imagine that you are engaged in a conversation with the author. Your notes, markings and margin notes reflect your response to what you have read.

Active reading will not only help you with your summer assignment, but will also better prepare you to actively participate in class discussions during the first week of school. These few actions will assist you with both assignments:

- ✓ Make connections to the plot, characters etc.
- ✓ Consider keeping a list of important characters (the inside of the cover is a great place to do so).
- ✓ Think about how you can relate to these characters and events.
- ✓ Do some quick research when you come across unfamiliar places, events, or ideas.

**Please note:** there is not a certain assigned number of annotations. The purpose of annotating is to ensure active reading and a greater understanding of the text. Your annotation grade will be based on evidence of consistent active reading.

## **2. Complete the extended response questions.**

The extended response questions are listed on the next page – please follow the instructions provided.

**Directions: After reading the text, complete the questions listed below. Each question should be answered on your own accord - this is not intended to be an Internet scavenger hunt. Any student found plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment (that would not be a great start to your high school career!). Please answer each question in a one paragraph response on a separate Google Doc. This should be completed for the first day of class; instructions will be given that day on how to turn-in the assignment.**

*Great Expectations Literary Analysis*

1. Why do you think Dickens chose to have Pip tell the events of the story--in order in which they happened, but years afterward? Could the story have been told better by an omniscient narrator? How does Pip change as he grows older? Do Miss Havisham and Estella change?
2. How does Dickens use movement in the novel, specifically movement between the marsh country where Pip lives as a boy, Miss Havisham's Satis House, and London?
3. How does imprisonment play a part in this novel--not just the convict's imprisonment, but also Miss Havisham's and other characters whose daily lives seem prisons?
4. How do the speech patterns of various characters--such as Joe, Pumblechook, and the Convict--differ?
5. What coincidences occur in the novel? Does Dickens overdo coincidences in this novel?
6. Find passages that show Dickens' use of sentimentality. For example, examine the scene where the convict dies with tears in his eyes. How do you feel about these instances of sentimentality?
7. Find passages where Dickens deliberately withholds information from his readers but provides hints. Does this heighten interest in the story--or is it unfair and contrived?
8. Dickens loved the theater. How is *Great Expectations* theatrical? To what moments does the novel build? Which scenes have "stagy" qualities?

*Great Expectations - Personal Interpretation*

9. Which of the characters are most well-rounded? Which are the flattest? Which seem more real to you? Why?
10. This novel was written in installments. Why do you think "cliffhangers" are often found at the end of installments? What are some examples?