

# Summer Reading Requirements

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## *Junior English – Honors*

Mr. Halicki, 254-7397 (not used during summer)

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I am glad you signed up for Honors English next year and I look forward to working with you. I know the last thing you are thinking about right now is what you are going to read this summer, but I would ask that each of you save a little time to add to your summer reading three American classics that we will be discussing next fall. We do not have enough time to read these books during the school year, but they are works that many well-educated Americans will recognize. I have chosen books that are easy to read without teacher assistance so you should be able to handle them easily. If you have questions before fall classes, you can e-mail me, and I'll try to answer your concerns. The reading and assignments are required for the course.

The books chosen are readily available at the library, from friends, or can be purchased used online. I would recommend that you keep a detailed log on each book, including character names, major plot developments in each chapter, possible themes, obvious author techniques such as foreshadowing or symbolism, etc., and of course the questions you have for me when we meet next fall.

You will be asked to demonstrate that you've read the three books by completing three assessments that are detailed below. You choose which project to do for each book. You must complete one of each of the assignments. Book tests will be given within the first week of the semester; the assignments are due the second day of class.

We will be working with these texts extensively during the first weeks of school and referring to them throughout the year. You can expect in-class essays, small/large group discussions, and other activities involving the texts during the first weeks of school. Expect a test and writing assignment for each book. These will be challenging, yet fun, so be prepared!

I look forward to introducing you to some of America's literary giants next fall. Until then, have a fun summer and enjoy some good reading!

### **Required Books for Summer Reading:**

1. Betty Smith—*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (new this year)
2. John Steinbeck—*Of Mice and Men* ("adult" language)
3. Zora Neale Hurston—*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

### **ASSIGNMENT 1 – Blog/Status Update**

Create a paper blog for one of the characters of one of the books. The blog should be written from the character's perspective detailing the events they experience throughout the book. The assignment should include 12 entries, each at least 50 words long. Each entry should include a title and date. Three of the 12 entries should have comments written in response from another character in the book.

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### **ASSIGNMENT 2 - Visual Representation**

**Create a neat, complete, and visually appealing poster that reflects your impression of a major character.**

#### **Characterization Poster of a Major Character**

##### **1. Picture of Character**

Draw, paint, cut out or copy and paste a large, vivid picture that represents how you visualize a major character in the novel.

##### **2. 6 Quotes with Page References**

Write quotes that describe (characterize) your character.

##### **3. Justification**

Briefly explain why you visualized and depicted the character in this manner.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Please use smaller rather than larger poster board.
- Nothing but name and date may be written on the back of the poster.
- Written portions must be typed and attached to the poster.

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### **ASSIGNMENT 3 - Five Margin Notes and Five Chapter Questions**

For your third book you are to buy a copy that you can make markings in and make notes along the way (at least five per chapter). You may wish to mark character descriptions, important events, difficult words, etc.

You also need to develop five questions per chapter for discussion or to help with understanding – write on separate paper to turn in.