

## HONORS ENGLISH III – SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2021

**General instructions:** To accommodate for students who are reliant on their surfaces to complete their work and to use Teams as a means of submitting work, due dates for summer work are somewhat flexible. Look for an e-mail for a new Team for Honors English III around August 1<sup>st</sup>. Once that has been set up, there will be assignments in Teams for the submission of your summer work.

Some reminders for submitting your work:

- Always submit Word documents on Teams. It's much easier for grading than OneNote or GoogleDocs.
- Always follow MLA guidelines for formatting your work including an appropriate heading, correct spacing, etc.
- Always use literary present tense in writing about literature.
- Never use first- or second-person personal pronouns such as I, we, you, and their variations in formal academic writing.
- Essays should follow the five-paragraph essay structure unless otherwise indicated.

### The Assignment:

- Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.
- Answer the following analysis questions about the novel:
  1. Each stage of Huck's moral growth culminates in a crisis of conscience and a decision to assist Jim and each decision is more consequential than the previous one(s). What are these stages and decisions; when do they occur; and what are their consequences?
  2. Among the novel's great ironies is that Huck and Jim's quest for freedom takes them farther and farther into the deep South, the heart of slavery. How and why does this happen? What are the implications?
  3. What are the parallels between the king and duke's treatment of Jim in Chapter 25 and Tom Sawyer's treatment of him in the final chapters?
  4. The story is told by a fourteen-year-old Huck, who admits to elaborate lies and fabrications. Can the reader trust him? Can the reader accept his version of things, or must she read between the lines? Just how reliable a narrator is he, and how does this impact the meaning of the novel?
  5. What qualities make Huck an American hero? To what extent does he show characteristics of the following types: loner, outcast, rebel, outlaw, underdog, flouter of convention, questioner of authority, visionary, trickster? Which of these traits does Jim share? Compare and contrast the two main characters. Would you consider Jim to be a hero? (This requires TWO paragraphs – one for Huck and one for Jim.)
  6. Each of the following themes is important in the novel. Select ONE for which you write a theme statement and explain how Twain develops his ideas about the topic: the individual and society; growth to maturity, responsibility and increased awareness and sensibility; the necessity of individual responsibility; the Haves and the Have-nots; search for a father, a family, or a home.
  7. Huck and Tom Sawyer have been characterized, respectively, as "the good bad boy" and the "bad good boy." How would you explain each term? Do Huck's and Tom's similarities and differences reflect the novel's themes and conflicts?
  8. What does the Mississippi River come to symbolize? What is the meaning of the river for Huck, Jim, other characters and the various communities along its shores?

9. Huck's comments on what the raft means to him and to Jim occur throughout the book; and their raft becomes something more than a river craft. What are the raft's physical dimensions and properties and its positive and negative qualities? What does the raft come to symbolize?
- Read *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.
  - Answer the following analysis questions about the novel:
    1. Explain the circumstances under which Holden is telling his story. In other words, where is he and to whom is he telling his story?
    2. The motif of falling is prevalent throughout the novel. What is the purpose of this motif?
    3. Why is Holden obsessed with the "phoniness" of adult behavior? What does he see as phony?
    4. Explain the meaning of TWO of the following symbols: Holden's red hunting hat, Allie's baseball mitt, the ducks in Central Park, the Museum of Natural History. (This requires TWO paragraphs.)
    5. What does the title of this novel mean in relation to the theme of the novel?
    6. The language in this novel is controversial. Some people find it offensive while others feel it is the language that a disenfranchised and alienated teenager would use and is therefore authentic. What do you think? Why?
    7. Each of the following themes is important in the novel. Select TWO for which you write a theme statement and explain how Salinger develops his ideas about the topic: innocence; mortality; youth; isolation; sexuality and sexual identity; sadness; wisdom and knowledge; lies and deceit; madness; religion. (This require TWO paragraphs.)
  - Finally write an essay in response to the following prompt:

Both of the novels you are reading for the summer have been banned from schools at different points for different reasons. Over the course of my 25 years + at Fenwick, I have had students whose parents did not want their children to read one or the other of these novels. Write an essay in which you argue for or against censorship in school. This requires some research on your part to find out what those who have studied this issue have said to bolster your argument. You should also incorporate what you've gained from reading these two novels to bolster your argument.
  - Turn in your work by August 15.