General English 10

Summer Reading

Upcoming sophomores,

Attached you will find all you need to complete your summer reading assignment. You will be reading the short story, “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” by Ambrose Bierce. As you read, you will annotate, or take notes. This assignment will be due on the Friday following the first full week of school. You will turn in this whole packet to me before you take the test on the same day.

I should see that you have fully annotated your copy. You should annotate the following literary devices and thoughts.

1. When you have questions about anything, write them in the margin.
2. Any elements of realism should be underlined. (This story is LOADED with these elements.)
3. Any time you see situational irony, you should draw a squiggly line underneath.

What is REALISM? I’m glad you asked. Realism is an attempt to describe human behavior and surroundings or to represent figures and objects exactly as they act or appear in life. The realist movement in literature came along after the Romantic movement. Basically, readers were sick of the hopeful, sunny-side of the always happily ending story. They craved something that was, well, real.

Elements of Realism:

* Focus on an average person as the protagonist
* Simple language
* Realistic events
* Human frailty
* Good and evil in real people
* Central character deals with some moral struggle
* Representation of middle class life

So, you are looking to underline any of these elements throughout the story. When something is underlined, you should explain which element this reflects on the journal side of the story.

Situational Irony – a contrast between what is expected to happen and what actually does.

Remember, you will put a squiggly line underneath any part of the story containing situational irony.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me. ashley.morrison@sccboe.org