

# The Pioneer Valley High School English Department Welcomes You!

Below you will find the **REQUIRED** summer assignment that you **must** complete. **It is due Friday, August 20, regardless of whether you are at school or not.** Please read it carefully and follow the directions.

Choose one book from the list below which you HAVE NOT READ BEFORE. You are welcome to buy, borrow, or check out from the library your book of choice, or download an e-book onto a tablet, computer, or e-reader. If the cost of the book poses a difficulty for your family, please contact Mrs. Davis at 805-922-1305 extension 5362 or at [kdavis@smjuhsd.org](mailto:kdavis@smjuhsd.org). You must read the complete, unabridged version of the book. Any edition is fine.

## War

*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway  
*All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque  
*The Things They Carried* by Tim 'O Brian  
*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

## Religion

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving  
*Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya  
*Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse

## Race/Racism

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry  
*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

## World Politics

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

## Slavery and War

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

## The Supernatural vs The Factual and Social Class

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Read the book in its entirety and AS YOU READ, complete a dialectical journal (example and directions below).

SET UP YOUR DIALECTICAL JOURNAL AS BELOW, ON COLLEGE-RULED, LINED PAPER. Use both sides of the paper. Fill up each side of the paper completely—from top to bottom. You can use an actual composition book/spiral notebook or stapled pages.

Name

Underlined Book Title

Date

FROM THE TEXT	COMMENTARY (80-150 words per response)
<p>Direct quotes, details, or events from the text, copied word-for-word and put in quotation marks with the page number/s/ in parenthesis at the end.</p> <p>(See sample on next page)</p>	<p>Analysis in your own words of this chapter or section. <u>Possible</u> ways to start your analysis could include the following:</p> <p><b>It seems like (character's name) is motivated by ..... in this section because.....</b></p> <p><b>The main conflict of this section is .... and it can be seen when (character's name) does ....</b></p> <p><b>This seems to be the climax of the story because....</b></p> <p><b>The setting of (detail of setting) is very important here because... (Character's name) seems like an antagonist because....</b></p> <p><b>The relationship between (character's name) and (character's name) is important here because....</b></p> <p><b>The (item discussed in this section) could be an important symbol because it...It could represent.... It can also be seen in.... (Author's name) uses figurative language here in order to....It is effective because....</b></p>

Sally Student  
Of Mice and Men  
 July 2, 2021

FROM THE TEXT	COMMENTARY
<p>“I seen hundreds of men come by on the road an’ on the ranches, with their bindles on their back an’ that same damn thing in their heads . . . every damn one of ’em’s got a little piece of land in his head. An’ never a God damn one of ’em ever gets it. Just like heaven. Ever’body wants a little piece of lan’. I read plenty of books out here. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land” (57).</p>	<p>Crooks’ observation of the hundreds of men who have come and gone on the ranch looking for work and then moving on shows that it’s during the Depression. This element of the setting is important because it establishes the need for George and Lennie to travel together for work. All the men are motivated by finding better, more permanent work that will allow them to save enough to buy their own ranches. But Crooks is right that because none of the men every stays long enough in one place (usually because they got in trouble—like George and Lennie—or because their job on the ranch was finished) none of them ever saves enough to buy his own place. And for the men, “bindle stiffs” who carry all their belongings in bedrolls on their backs, their own ranch is their own piece of “Heaven.”</p> <p>Crooks’ pessimistic view of the men and the situation indicates the hopelessness that most men felt in the 1930s when they had to move from place to place in order to save enough money to just stay alive.</p>

**When you finish your book and dialectical journal, on the last page, write an essay that answers the following questions:**

How are the characters motivated or affected by the overall situation or concept that drives this book? How does it drive the plot and affect the outcome of the book? The overall situation/concept for each book is listed in boldface and underlined above the book titles, so for example: for *A Farewell to Arms*, the overall situation is War—or more specifically, World War I; for *A Raisin in the Sun*, the overall situation is Race—or more specifically, being a Black family in the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s, etc. Also note that two books have **two** overall situations: *Chains* (slavery, war), and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (the supernatural vs the factual, social class). For those books, your answer to the questions above can refer to either overall situation or both.

Your answer to the question must be hand-written on college-ruled lined paper. **DO NOT SKIP LINES.** Use pen or pencil, print or cursive. It should be a minimum of one full page, down to the bottom (without skipping lines). Your heading should be on the upper-left hand corner **ABOVE** the top line of the paper. **DO NOT write your heading on the lines.** Your heading goes in the blank, unlined space in the upper left-hand corner. Your answer begins on the **first line** of the paper.

Do NOT use or copy any information from the internet for any part of this assignment. Plagiarism is the use of, copying of, or paraphrasing of someone else’s words or ideas without giving them credit. **If you copy or even paraphrase anything from online you will earn an F on this assignment.**