

Requirements and Reading Lists for Honors English II

Overview

Honors English II is an accelerated class designed for the student who excels in language and literature and who is willing to do more work than the state curriculum mandates. The classes are feeder classes for Advanced Placement (AP) English.

Admission Requirements into the Honors Program

It is recommended that you have successfully completed honors English I and that you have above average achievement test scores in language arts.

Curriculum

The honors English II curriculum reviews the basics of composition, requires vocabulary study, and addresses the state standards that are covered in the end of course test. The course, a compilation of World Literature, covers all literary genres. In addition, a research paper is required as well as smaller research projects. Most of the research will be done outside of class. Because of the time constraints, students must read during the summer and outside of class during the semester the course is taken.

Summer Reading, Project, and Test

Acquisition of books for summer reading is each student's responsibility. Be aware that you may need to refer to or use these books for assignments throughout the school year. In addition, you must do a project **which is to be completed by the first full day of school in August**. Even though your class may be scheduled for the second semester, you must bring your projects to Room S209 or S210 on the first full day of school. You will also take a test over the summer reading on the first full day of school either in class (if you have English 1st semester) or at 3:00 P.M in Room S210 (if you have English 2nd semester). If you are absent on this day, it is imperative that you see your teacher immediately to schedule a make-up date for the test. Any test or project taken later than the testing day will have twenty points deducted from the project and/ or test. **Projects and the summer reading test will each count as a major test grade during your first term in the class.**

Summer Reading Books:

The Glass Menagerie Tennessee Williams
The Secret Life of Bees Sue Kidd Monk

Books may be purchased from Amazon.

Project directions are on page 2

Summer Reading and Project Instructions

You will take a test covering *The Glass Menagerie* and *The Secret Life of Bees* on the first full day of school, regardless of the semester you are assigned to the class. After this date any summer work is late and twenty points will be deducted. The test is to be made up the next day at the discretion of the teacher.

Directions for each work

The entire project, including the dialectical journal, should be in one notebook. The various sections of the project should appear in the notebook in the order they are listed below; thus, the scrapbook should be at the end of the notebook.

The Glass Menagerie

Create a scrapbook following the order indicated in these instructions. Each section of the scrapbook should have a heading, should be thoughtful and creative, and should meet all the requirements outlined below.

1. Design a creative cover for the scrapbook. Do not simply print a picture from the Internet. Write an explanation of at least five sentences about why you chose your design. The cover may be displayed either on the cover of your binder or on the first page.
 - i. Assume the identity of one of the characters and write a journal entry of at least one page about a problem from the story the character is experiencing.
 - ii. As Jim, write a thank-you note to Amanda. Be sure to follow the proper form detailed below:
 - i. Greet the giver (Dear _____)
 - ii. Express your gratitude for the service (dinner, party) or gift
 - iii. Refer to something especially pleasant (a specific dish, the warmth of the hostess)
 - iv. Refer to the past, allude to the future. (It was great getting to see you; I hope to see you at Dad's retirement party in February.)
 - v. Show grace or class. Thank you again for
 - vi. Regards (Sincerely, Your name)

Thank you notes should be handwritten on note card stationery, not regular paper. If you do not have these types of note cards, make one by folding typing paper.

- iii. Assume the identity of either Amanda or Laura. Write a letter to a government official to whom you complain about a problem that exists in the play, one which the official might be able to help solve. This letter should be typed and follow the format of a proper business letter. (See below)

The Return Address (no abbreviations for Street, Avenue, etc.)
 The city, and state [your two letter state abbreviation] zip
 Date (write out either like June 4, 2015 or 4 June 2015)

First and Last Name of the Person to whom you are writing
 Their Address
 City, ST zip

Dear Mr./Ms. Person: [note the colon]

Times have changed, and indentations for paragraphs are usually not used because it is easier not to use them. The body paragraphs should be single spaced in a business letter. But you should double space between paragraphs when your letter contains more than one paragraph.

Sincerely yours,

{Three spaces so that your signature may appear here}

Sally Student

- iv. Answer the above letter as the government official and either explain how you can help or why you cannot help.
 - The letter must contain a letterhead, which can be a logo or the name of the company. You are to design the logo/letterhead.
 - The letter must also follow standard business form
- v. Choose a poem or song that you think is representative of this play. It may remind you of one of the characters, the theme, or the plot.
 - Include a copy of the lyrics or the poem
 - Write a half page depicting why your choice is relevant to the play.

All entries in the scrapbook are to be typed and placed in the order that the project directions indicate. Each entry should be placed on a separate page and labeled with a heading. Include the entire project in one binder. Do not use a separate folder for the dialectical journal.

The Secret Life of Bees

- Turn in a dialectical journal with at least 28 entries (2 per chapter). These entries must show thoughtful consideration of the reading material and encompass the entire book. Carefully follow the specific directions for the journal given below.

Dialectical Journal Directions

A dialectical journal is merely a double entry journal. The purpose of such a journal is to identify **SIGNIFICANT** pieces of text and explain their significance. It should be used to think about, digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read. It is a way to take notes on what is read using the actual text. In effect, you will be holding a discussion with yourself on key points, asking questions, and reacting to particular phrases that drew your attention.

- **Divide your paper into two columns**
- **Head the left-hand column as “NOTE-TAKING”**
- **Head the right-hand column as “NOTE-MAKING”**
- **As you read, take notes in the left-hand column about passages that interest you. Be sure to include the page numbers with these notes.**
- **As soon as you take a note, move to the right-hand column and write freely what your mind says about that quote. Listen to your own thoughts.**
- **Take a note; write a note. Continue as you read.**
- **After three or four entries, stop and reflect on what you have discovered.**

The types of entries should include genuine questions about/reactions to plot, characterization, relationships, or setting. You may also include personal reflections on the text or connections that you have been able to make between what is happening in the work and your own experiences. Further, you may want to comment on the literary qualities of the work, including those of descriptive language, metaphors, diction, plot development, characterization, or predictability. Finally, you may wish to interpret what the author is trying to say in a particular passage.

Sample: “Quote” (Page #)	Commentary
“Put the line from the text in quotes” (p. #)	Your comment should be your thoughtful reaction, question, or challenge to the thought, or it should advance the thought of the author. It should not repeat or just restate what the author said.
“Give me liberty or give me death” (42)	Patrick Henry really was an extremist. I can’t believe he really wanted to die if the Colonies didn’t declare a revolution. There was no negotiating with him. He was a warmonger!

Summer Reading Project Rubric

Student Name: _____

The Secret Life of Bees:

Dialectical Journal (35 pts.) _____

Glass Menagerie:

Cover (10 pts.) _____

Cover Explanation (5 pts.) _____

Journal Entry (10 pts.) _____

Thank you Note (10 pts.) _____

Business Letter (10 pts.) _____

Answer Letter (10 pts.) _____

Poem/Song representation (10 pts.) _____

“Above and Beyond” extra credit (up to 5 pts.) _____

Grade: _____