

ENGLISH 2 HONORS Peterson / Elwood

*This commitment form is due to either honors teacher before the completion of the school year.
If you sign up after the end of the year, bring a signed commitment form the first day of class.*

Class Description:

English 2 Honors explores man's universal journey as demonstrated in the monomyth and archetypes and as evidenced in mythology, creation stories, and other literature of various timeframes. Students read novels, poetry and short stories at a rigorous pace. Additionally, students read 150 pages of independent reading every week from a novel of choice, but not any book that is (or has been) required in another class. The independent reading will be the topic of some form of written reflection/analysis due every Friday. Sophomore Honors students will do journals to accompany the reading, write major essays along with shorter writings, and take essay exams and quizzes. Students will study vocabulary and literary terms as well as grammar and writing domains and practices. Students will be responsible for small projects and formal projects, which will culminate in major presentations.

Summer Reading Assignment:

Students will need to purchase these books and bring them to class. There is written work required for all three books, due the first day of school in September. You will pick up your assignment instructions when you return your commitment tear off. Be advised: If you decide not to read these books and/or do the journals, schedule out of the class in August before school starts. Many assignments during the first few weeks of school will center on these works. ***Failure to comply with the summer reading requirements will irreparably damage your entire first semester grade.***

Expectations:

Sophomore Honors English is designed to appeal to students who have a passion for reading, relish discussion and analysis and possess a willingness to pursue writing in many domains. Students should expect to deal with intense scrutiny of their writing, push their analytical boundaries and manage a huge vocabulary word bank. Homework will be assigned every night and on weekends; students should never come to class without having completed their homework. Having previously done well in general will not ensure success in Sophomore English Honors. Students who have not already embraced this content area or developed appropriate study and organizational skills usually do not fare well in this class. Students must discuss with the current English teacher (regular or honors) the advisability of choosing Sophomore English Honors. Also, they should consider a reasonable limit to the number of honors/AP classes, so they can properly manage the rigorous requirements of *all* classes and not lose the love of a subject.

Your signature below establishes a commitment to this class and its requirements for the *entire* year.

Return this form to Mrs. Elwood (4102) or Ms. Peterson (4210). Turn in Date: _____

Freshman English Teacher: _____

Current Class Level: ☐ Honors ☐ Regular First Semester Grade: _____ Current Grade: _____

My current teacher has circled the following designation on the yellow Honors/AP Assessment form:

☐ Recommend Highly ☐ Recommend ☐ Recommend w/Reservations ☐ Do Not Recommend

Student's Name (print)

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

The Dialectical Journal

June 2012

Kindle or online books are not appropriate unless the page numbers match the page numbers of the hardcopy books listed. If we are going to examine a quote on page 134, all students must be able to find that passage. Inconsistent page numbering hinders productive literary discussion.

Definition:

The Dialectical Journal (DJ) provides a technique for analysis and reflection of literature. DJs help students make connections between the text and personal experience, examine the author's deeper meaning, and enhance awareness of the literature.

Required Reading:

Eaters of the Dead

Michael Crichton ISBN 9780061782633

The Chosen

Chaim Potok ISBN 0449911543

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* Zora Neale Hurston ISBN 0060931418**

For *ETD*, read but don't write about the introduction, the appendix and "Factual Notes." The excerpt from *Prey* is not required. Before starting *TC*, read "The Appreciation" section in the back the book. Do not write about this section. For *TEWG*, read the afterward, "About the Author" and "About the Book"; do not write about these sections.

Directions:

Take an ordinary sheet of notebook paper. Fold it in half the long way and then in half again top to bottom, to create four boxes per page. The left side boxes will contain one quote (with the page number – MLA style). The right side boxes will contain a full box of analysis, impressions, questions, or reactions regarding each quote. If you have large handwriting, make some adjustments; skimpy entries will be graded down. If you have messy or extremely small writing, make adjustments so your work is legible. Do the same on the back of the page. You will have four entries for each piece of paper. Make four entries per chapter for all three books. Label each chapter at the top of every page.

Sample DJ entries:

1. An incident that reminds you of something
Example: "This is like a time I nearly set my cat on fire . . ."
2. An event which evokes an emotional response
Example: "I would like to kill that Mr. Burns. He is so evil that . . ."
3. A dialogue with the author or a character
Example: "I can't believe you let him treat you like that because . . ."
4. An attempt to understand
Example: "I think that the giant doughnut is supposed to represent gluttony since . . ."
5. An analysis of a word, phrase or literary technique
Example: "I see why the author used *genuflect* rather than *kneel*; it gives a whole different feeling of . . ."
6. Ask a question and try to answer it
Example: "Why didn't she tell him how she felt? I know she was scared, but . . ."
7. A note of appreciation
Example: "I like the way the author describes the fight. It is like you are actually there because . . ."

Format Requirements:

1. *No small binders or spiral notebooks will be accepted.* If you use a spiral notebook, the pages must be taken out of the notebook and all of the frayed edges removed before submitting the work. There should be no evidence that the pages were ever in a spiral notebook.
2. Staple, brad or twist tie together each packet of DJs separately. You will have three packets of DJs to submit on the first day of school. Do not use clips or rings.
3. Create a coversheet for each packet. Type the title at the top of the page and then your first and last name underneath the title. The coversheet will be 48 font. Do not decorate your coversheet.
4. All DJs will be handwritten legibly in dark blue or black ink. *No typed DJs will be accepted.*