

Welcome to Sophomore Honors English. The purpose of this course is to prepare you for the AP composition and literature courses we offer to Juniors and Seniors, and to prepare you for the rigors of college where you will be expected to work with challenging texts and to communicate your thoughts and ideas clearly in writing.

The summer assignment is an important component of the Honors/Advanced Placement course offerings at San Rafael High School. These assignments allow us to insure that you continue to develop your reading and writing skills during the summer months, and they contribute to our ability to prepare you for Honors/Advanced Placement curriculum during the school year.

### **During the Summer**

#### **Required Background:**

You have studied the Hero's Journey cycle in Freshman English. Though you should be familiar with the steps of the cycle we will be focusing primarily on "The Call", "Helpers and Charms", "Tests and Obstacles", and "The Return with the Gift". You might need to research the Hero's Journey on the Web so that you are able to confidently and accurately refer to it in your writing.

#### **Read:**

You will read a novel this summer that follows the Hero's Journey cycle as told through ancient myths and lore—The Once and Future King (TOAFK) by T.H. White. You will continue to use this text during the first month of school so I suggest you purchase it. If you check it out from the school library, please make sure it will still be available to you through September.

#### **Reading Journal:**

You have one journaling assignment this summer, broken into three parts, which you will submit to me via email. You will use your journal entries to document stages of the Hero's Journey that relate to characters in TOAFK, especially the protagonist. Ultimately, your entries will be a collection of your thinking that you will be able to use later when it is time to write an in-class essay in the fall that focuses on the Hero's Journey. I will grade your reading journal based on its ability to demonstrate your understanding of the novel, the thoroughness with which you read, and the usefulness of your journal as commentary on the Hero's Journey.

#### **Journal entries should include the following:**

- Pages completed: Give this section a title.
- Summarization: Describe the plot of the story
- Analysis: Connection to the Hero's Journey

#### **Submission Procedure:**

- You are expected to write three journal entries discussing the novel. Entries must be drawn from the beginning, middle and end of the book.
- You will email your journal entries to me at the following email: [cynhager@gmail.com](mailto:cynhager@gmail.com)
- Journals are due on the following Wednesdays. If you want to read more quickly you may hand in your entries earlier, BUT NOT LATER, than the dates below:

#1) *Wednesday, June 26*

#2) *Wednesday, July 17*

#3) *Wednesday, August 7*

**Formatting:** The journal entries should appear as text in the email (not an attachment!) Here's how to submit your work: **In the subject line include your name, the entry number (#1, #2, or #3) and the date. You might not receive credit if the entries are not properly identified as yours!**

*Example: #1) July 5 Elena Pletcher.* (You need to follow directions carefully so that you receive credit for your work.)

## **In the Fall**

### **Essay:**

When we return in the fall, you will write an essay that connects TOAFK to another source (to be announced later) and the Hero's Journey. This will be an in-class essay. I will be evaluating your essay in two ways: First, I will look for evidence that you have read the novel carefully. Second, I will look for evidence of your ability to write analytically. Essays should be a minimum of five paragraphs in length though they may be longer. All claims or assertions should be supported through direct references to the text.

For the 2019-2020 school year, we will be reading the following texts. **I strongly recommend that you purchase books** so that you are able to write and annotate directly on each page as needed. Below is a list of the novels we will be reading.

The Once and Future King, T. H. White

Othello, Folger Shakespeare Library, 1993

Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Dover Thrift Edition

A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens, Penguin Classics, 2003

Lord of the Flies, William Golding, Capricorn Books (other editions acceptable)

Siddhartha, Hermann Hesse, Dover Thrift Edition

The House of the Spirits, Isabel Allende, Dial Press Trade Paperback

All the Pretty Horses, Cormac McCarthy, Vintage 1993

Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver, 1998

In addition to the works listed above, you will read two choice books.

Finally, during the summer I use my gmail account. **Please add me to your contacts:**

Ms. Hager

cynhager@gmail.com



RETURN THIS FORM TO ME BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE SUMMER—LA 303.  
I will need to communicate with you at times individually and as a group. Please provide me with an active email address and a phone number (your cell for texts) where you can be easily reached. Print very very legibly!

Thank you and I look forward to an excellent year with you in 2019-2020.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_