

Thomas Hart Academy

Honors English I Summer Reading 2021

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can not read them.
--Mark Twain

Thomas Hart Academy students are encouraged to read widely and extensively, and summer is the perfect opportunity to delve into books! No other activity has as many far-reaching benefits for academic success as reading. Increasing vocabulary, recognizing varied sentence structures, perceiving the correct use of grammar, and making connections are only a handful of the advantages that reading brings. In this day and age of constant electronic distraction, reading is more valuable than ever before.

Although we hope that English I Honors students will read for pleasure throughout the summer, they will be responsible for reading **two** books and answer the questions attached for both of their books. Students should bring their assignments to class on the first day of school in August.

Please select the following:

- 1) Any nonfiction book of the student's choice. The student may choose a nonfiction book on any topic that is of interest and is of a reading level that is neither too easy nor too difficult. Students should complete the questions attached for their nonfiction selection. Students should bring their assignment (printed) on the first day of school.
- 2) A fiction book from the list of classics below. These books have been chosen with sophisticated vocabulary and sentence structure in mind. Students should complete the questions for their fiction selection. Students should bring their assignment (printed) to class on the first day of school.

Honors English I Classics List

Please make sure that the book you read is unabridged and not a children's version. Penguin Classics (rather than the children's Puffin Classics) is usually a good edition.

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain
- *Kidnapped or Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Call of the Wild*, Jack London
- *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (not currently available in Penguin edition; any unabridged copy is fine)
- *Emma*, Jane Austen
- *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte

Type responses to the following questions in a separate document for each novel. Answer questions thoroughly and in complete sentences. Cite textual evidence when necessary and include a Works Cited page. Your document should be in MLA format and printed. (You may number your answers.)

Honors English I Nonfiction Questions

1. What made you choose to read this book?
2. What is the main idea of this book?
3. List three details from the book about this main idea.
4. How is the information in this book organized? (by chronological order? By spatial order? By importance?)
5. What structures in the book help you to understand the information? (Are there chapter titles? Subheadings? Pictures and captions? A glossary? An index?)
Which of these structures was most helpful to you in comprehending the text?
6. What do you notice about the author's style? Are the sentences long and rambling or short and concise? Are the words long and difficult or short and simple? Does the author use much figurative language or description?
7. Do you feel the author's style is appropriate for the purpose and audience of this book?
8. Define three vocabulary words from this book that are new to you or that you think are necessary to understand the subject of the book.
9. List three things that you have learned from this book.
10. Did you enjoy this book? Why or why not?

Honors English I Classic Fiction Questions

1. Why did you choose this book from the list?
2. What is the setting of this novel?
3. Who is the protagonist of this novel, and what does he or she want?
4. Who or what stands in the way of the protagonist's getting what he or she wants?
5. Briefly describe the biggest conflict and label its type (man vs. man, man vs. self, man vs. society, man vs. nature).
6. What do you notice about the author's style? Are the sentences long and rambling or short and concise? Are the words long and difficult or short and simple?
7. Write out and label one example of figurative language (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, etc.) from the book. Your example should be a complete sentence. Please put the page number in parentheses at the end of the example.
8. Define three vocabulary words from this book that are new to you (list page number).
9. What connection can you make between this book and another book you have read, movie you've seen, historical person or event, or your own life?
10. Explain the theme or what the protagonist has learned.