

# Sunnyslope High School

## HONORS FRESHMAN ENGLISH 1-2

**TO:** ALL SHS FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN HONORS ENGLISH  
**FROM:** MRS. WOOD AND MR. WOODS  
**DATE:** MAY, 2017  
**RE:** MANDATORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to the Honors English program at Sunnyslope High School! Honors English is specifically designed to prepare you for academic success in high school Advanced Placement English and college English courses. Reading and writing are crucial to that preparation; therefore, in addition to reading books of your choice this summer, you are required to read two assigned books and to complete assignments associated with those books. These assignments provide practice in your reading, thinking, and writing skills, and they are great topics for discussion as we start the school year in August.

### **Reading Effectively Assignment:**

You will read Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

To help you read actively, to increase your understanding of the book, and to practice your writing skills, you must complete a summary/prediction assignment. This assignment is due on the second day of school, and *since you will be required to submit it to Turnitin.com, it must be typed.*

As you read the book, prepare an *original* summary/prediction list. After reading each chapter, write **three original summary sentences** that summarize three significant events in that chapter. Then write one **prediction sentence** about something you think will happen later in the book. Your grade does not depend on your predictions being correct, only that you include logical and thoughtful reasons for them. Each prediction must include the word "because" and give a reason based on your knowledge of the story so far. **Please highlight or underline each "because."** Write complete sentences. Again, you must **type this assignment** (no handwritten work, please). Your work must be original work; this means that you have put each summary into your own words. You will be able to use this assignment while taking the test. The following is a sample format to follow:

#### **Chapter 1**

##### **Summaries:**

1. Missy was raised in a small town where there were very low expectations for girls, and even though her single mother was poor, she was loving and supportive.
2. Missy's first real job, which she found through her teacher, was working in the lab at the hospital.
3. While trying to escape her life of few opportunities, Missy drives through Indian reservation land in Oklahoma, and she hates it because it's so flat and barren.

**Prediction:** Missy will probably have trouble with the Indian baby **because** she has no experience taking care of a baby; in addition, she could be in trouble with the law for "kidnapping" the baby.

## **Reading and Analysis Assignment:**

You will read *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak. As you read, you may take notes to aid in your comprehension, but the required assignment/project is as follows:

1. In *The Book Thief*, **visual imagery** (the pictures that the reader creates in his or her mind while reading), especially the use of color, is important to the understanding of the book. The narrator of *The Book Thief* says,

“First the colors. Then the humans. That’s how I usually see things” (Zusak 3).

“People observe colors of a day only at its beginning and end, but to me it’s quite clear that a day merges through a multitude of shades and intonations with each passing moment. A single hour can consist of thousands of colors. Waxy yellows, cold-spat blues. Murky darkness” (Zusak 5).

- **Choose one quote** from the book that you feel creates a vivid picture in the reader’s mind and that you feel is significant to the characters, plot, and/or themes of the novel. This image might be the result of the author’s use of figurative language or by vivid description. You will create this picture and write an analysis of the quote, so **be wise in choosing your quote**.
- Illustrate this quote on a ½ sheet of standard poster board, finished size: 14” X 22”. The illustration should be a creative, detailed, thoughtful, and accurate representation of the quote. **The use of color is important**. The illustration can use paint, markers, cutouts, or any combination of materials that creatively expresses your quote.
- The quote (with quotation marks and citation) must be **typed** at the top of a separate piece of paper. Draft and then type a paragraph on the same page as the typed quote in which you explain the meaning of the quote, its importance to the novel, the image portrayed and how it relates to the quote, and the importance of the colors that you have chosen for your illustration.

2. Write a multi-paragraph essay (include an introduction, body, and conclusion) in which you address the following question: **Why does Death tell Liesel that it is "haunted" by humans?** Be sure to support your response with evidence from the text.

Please understand that doing your summer work is a prerequisite for being in the honors program. **The summer assignments are due on the second day of class, and you will be tested on both books the first week of school. The assignments and tests will comprise five percent (5%) of your first semester grade.**

We look forward to meeting you in August and to enjoying a fun and challenging year of English. If you have any questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kevin Woods ([kevin.woods@guhsdaz.org](mailto:kevin.woods@guhsdaz.org)) and Shannon Wood ([shannon.wood@guhsdaz.org](mailto:shannon.wood@guhsdaz.org))