

Summer Reading Assignment

Honors English 1

“The only way that we can live, is if we grow. The only way that we can grow is if we change. The only way that we can change is if we learn. The only way we can learn is if we are exposed. And the only way that we can become exposed is if we throw ourselves out into the open. Do it. Throw yourself.” - C. JoyBell C.

Welcome to Righetti High School and Honors Freshman English. Congratulations on deciding to challenge and reward yourself by taking this class. This course is not just about preparing you for Honors and AP English courses offered throughout your time here at Righetti. It's about honing your critical thinking skills, expanding your literary horizons, and fostering a love for reading and writing. It is essential that you be prepared for class discussion and are willing to share your ideas.

In this course, you will complete five literary units and two independent novels over the year. Additionally, summer reading is a prerequisite for this class. To do this, you must read John Steinbeck's short novel *Of Mice and Men* and complete the structured notes (found at the end of this document). **The notes will be due at the end of the second week of school and must be in the format I have presented.** Please note that the template should be used for each chapter of the novel. I want to see what you are thinking as you read. The notes will be submitted to Canvas.

You can access an online copy of the novel by [clicking here](#) (or Googling “Of Mice and Men pdf”) or by purchasing the book independently. Additionally, you should be able to check out a copy from the RHS library when school starts. However, waiting until then to read the novel would be a terrible idea. Rest assured, there are plenty of options available to ensure you can complete this assignment.

The first few weeks of school will be devoted to activities and discussions based on the novel, *Of Mice and Men*. There will also be a comprehension test and a written essay focused on the themes you discovered in the novel. Completion of all of these activities is a requirement of the course.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this summer homework assignment or about the English 1 Honors class. I look forward to meeting you on the first day of school.

Mrs. Robinson
English Instructor
erobinson@smjuhsd.org

Note Format

Directions: Complete this note chart for each chapter. The next page is a blank template that you should copy into your own document. You need about a page of notes per chapter. You are required to do six pages of notes total since the standard paperback copy has six chapters.

Chapter

Characters: Write down the characters introduced in this chapter and important information about them. This includes new information about characters that have already been introduced.	Themes: Write down a lesson that can be learned about life from this chapter. Themes are more than one word. Ex. Friends always take care of each other.	Symbols: Write down anything that you think represents or stands for something else or has a deeper meaning than the literal thing. Ex. the pond at the beginning symbolizes safety and sanctuary	Thoughts: Write down at least one prediction, question, or connection you can make between the chapter and anything else.
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Plot Summary: Write down the major plot points for each chapter. Bullet point notes are fine. This should end up being a detailed summary of the chapter, at least half a page long.
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Chapter #

Characters:	Themes:	Symbols:	Thoughts:
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Plot Summary: