

The Pioneer Valley High School English Department Welcomes You!

Below you will find the **REQUIRED** summer assignment that you **must** complete. **It is due Friday of the 2nd week of school, regardless of whether you are at school or not.** Please read it carefully and follow the directions.

Choose one book from the list below which you **HAVE NOT READ BEFORE**. You can buy, borrow, or check out from the library your book of choice, or download the book onto a digital device. If the cost of the book poses a difficulty for your family, please contact Mrs. Davis at kdavis@smjuhsd.org. **You must read the entire book, complete a reading log (described below) and write an essay (described on pages #2 & 3)**

War

- A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque
- The Things They Carried* by Tim 'O Brian
- The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

Religion

- A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving
- Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse

Race/Racism

- A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

World Politics

- Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Slavery and War

- Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Supernatural vs The Factual and Social Class

- The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Read the book in its entirety and AS YOU READ, complete a reading log (example and directions below). By the time you finish, your journal should be approximately 4 to 8 pieces of paper, front and back. You CAN write more, but filling out FEWER than 4 pieces of paper will probably result in a poor grade. The idea is that every time you read something you think is important, symbolic, interesting, confusing, sad, funny, offensive, gross, weird, or unfair, STOP and write about it. You should be stopping to write at least every few pages. If you aren't writing an entry in your reading log every few pages, then you're not really reading.

SET UP YOUR READING LOG AS BELOW, ON COLLEGE-RULED, LINED PAPER. Use both sides of every piece of paper. Fill up each side of the papers completely—from top to bottom. You can use an actual composition book/spiral notebook or stapled pages.

Name _____

Underlined Book Title _____

Date _____

FROM THE TEXT	COMMENTARY (approximately 80-150 words per response)
<p>Direct quotes, details, or events from the text, copied word-for-word and put in quotation marks with the page number/s/ in parenthesis at the end.</p> <p>(See sample on next page)</p>	<p><u>Analysis</u> in your own words of this chapter or section. <u>Possible</u> ways to start your analysis could include the following:</p> <p>It seems like (character's name) is motivated by in this section because.....</p> <p>The main conflict of this section is and it can be seen when (character's name) does</p> <p>This seems to be the climax of the story because....</p> <p>The setting of (detail of setting) is very important here because... (Character's name) seems like an antagonist because....</p> <p>The relationship between (character's name) and (character's name) is important here because....</p> <p>The (item discussed in this section) could be an important symbol because it....It could represent.... It can also be seen in.... (Author's name) uses figurative language here in order to....It is effective because....</p>

FROM THE TEXT	COMMENTARY
<p>“I seen hundreds of men come by on the road an’ on the ranches, with their bindles on their back an’ that same damn thing in their heads . . . every damn one of ’em’s got a little piece of land in his head. An’ never a God damn one of ’em ever gets it. Just like heaven. Ever’body wants a little piece of lan’. I read plenty of books out here. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land” (57).</p>	<p>Crooks’ observation of the hundreds of men who have come and gone on the ranch looking for work and then moving on shows that it’s during the Depression. This element of the setting is important because it establishes the need for George and Lennie to travel together for work. All the men are motivated by finding better, more permanent work that will allow them to save enough to buy their own ranches. But Crooks is right that because none of the men every stays long enough in one place (usually because they got in trouble—like George and Lennie—or because their job on the ranch was finished) none of them ever saves enough to buy his own place. And for the men, “bindle stiffs” who carry all their belongings in bedrolls on their backs, their own ranch is their own piece of “Heaven.”</p> <p>Crooks’ pessimistic view of the men and the situation indicates the hopelessness that most men felt in the 1930s when they had to move from place to place in order to save enough money to just stay alive.</p>
<p>“I oughtta of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn’t oughtta of let no stranger shoot my dog” (61).</p>	<p>It seems like this line might foreshadow an event later in the novel. Candy, the old swamper, is making a pretty big deal about not shooting his own dog, and that makes it seem important. It’s like he’s realized that taking responsibility for one’s own things, including living things like pets, is one of the most important things a man can do. This makes sense since George must take responsibility for Lennie. In the 1st chapter George complained about being responsible for Lennie but it still seems like he doesn’t mind it too much since it keeps him from being too lonely. Maybe George will have to take responsibility for Lennie’s mistakes like scaring the girl in the red dress in Weed. I think taking responsibility for one’s things is an important idea in this novel.</p>

When you finish your book and reading log, on the last page, write an essay that answers the following questions:

How are the characters motivated or affected by the overall situation or concept that drives this book? How does it drive the plot and affect the outcome of the book? The overall situation/concept for each book is listed in boldface print on the next page (It’s the word/words above each list of books)

War

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Remarque
The Things They Carried by Tim 'O Brian
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Religion

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

World Politics

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Race/Racism

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Slavery and War

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Supernatural vs The Factual and Social Class

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Note that two books have **two overall situations: *Chains* (slavery, war), and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (the supernatural vs the factual, social class). For those books, your answer to the questions above can refer to either overall situation or both.

Your answer to the question must be **hand-written** on college-ruled lined paper. **DO NOT SKIP LINES**. Use pen or pencil, print or cursive. It should be a minimum of one full page, down to the bottom (without skipping lines). Your heading should be on the upper-left hand corner **ABOVE** the top line of the paper. **DO NOT write your heading on the lines**. Your heading goes in the blank, unlined space in the upper left-hand corner. Your essay begins on the **first line** of the paper.

Do NOT use or copy any information from the internet or from another student for any part of this assignment. Plagiarism is the use of, copying of, or paraphrasing of someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit. **If you copy or even paraphrase anything from online or from another student, you will earn an F on this assignment.**