**Gifted English II and Honors English II summer reading**

Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* , by Harper Lee.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in the sleepy town of Maycomb, Alabama during the 1930s. Maycomb is suffering through the Great Depression and is riddled with prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy. The novel tells the story of Scout Finch, a spirited young tomboy and her father Atticus. It is both a coming-of-age tale and an insightful social commentary.

While you are reading, annotate your text on post-it-notes to record your thoughts and feelings about segments which you feel are important and add depth to the novel and help develop the theme. **You will have to turn 10 of your highest quality post-it notes in.**

When we return in August, we will have whole class and small group

discussions about the book, so be sure to note passages you find insightful.

***Read the book* .** Many students believe that watching a movie version of a book is the same as

reading the book. This is not correct. The movie version of *To Kill a Mockingbird* differs in

significant ways from the novel. All assignments for this novel are based on close readings from

the book. **Upon returning to school in the fall, you will be expected to participate in class**

**activities and will take a test on this novel.** Only reading Sparknotes or Cliffnotes will not

adequately prepare you for these activities, but can be an excellent resource upon completion of

your reading.

***To Kill a Mockingbird***

You will also need to carefully provide complete, thorough, and original answers for **4** of the

Questions below. **Your answers should embed evidence and commentary and be of least 200 words for each prompt.**

Type each question using Times New Roman 12pt font and then

answer the question underneath. **You must bring a paper copy of your answers on the first day of school.**

If you are scheduled to take English II in the Spring, you still need to turn in your assignment the first day of school.

1) In **Chapter 10** , Miss Maudie says,

“Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make

music for us to enjoy. They don’t eat up

people’s gardens, don’t nest in corncribs, they don’t do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” This quotation (and several more like it) explains an important theme of this novel. (A theme is the

writer’s message about life.) Write this theme in your own words. Do not refer to mockingbirds because the statement above is just a metaphor for humans. What characters do you believe are used to emphasize this quotation in the novel?

2) In **Chapter 11** , Atticus gives his idea of

courage: “It’s when you know you’re licked

before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.” Do you agree with this definition of courage? How does Atticus exemplify this quote throughout the novel? Explain your answer.

3) Summarize Miss Gates’ lecture on democracy in the classroom and compare that to her remark to Miss Crawford outside the courtroom (Chapter 26).

4) Carefully read **Chapter 30** . Briefly summarize the argument between Atticus and Sheriff Tate. This chapter is tricky and a little hard to understand; you will need to make inferences and know the characters well. You may need to read it more than once to understand it.

5) Carefully read **Chapter 31** . The narrator

notes, “Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them.” What events(s) on that page and on the previous one or two pages leads the narrator to that conclusion?