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

*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.

***1.* 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.

**2.** **You will have to turn 10 of your highest quality post-it notes in. See the annotation guide below. Responses must be handwritten and recorded on 3X3 post its. Please write the page number of the text you’re responding to.**

***ANNOTATION GUIDE***

***The following are suggestions of types of annotations you can make as you annotate. You may not have one of every type of annotation, but you should include a variety of different types.***

• Ask questions about details that confuse you or about subject matter with which you are unfamiliar. These will be essential when we begin rereading the text

• Make connections to other parts of the text: comparisons, contradictions, thematic connections, connections between characters’ words and actions, connections or comparison between settings, tone, mood, etc.

• Make connections to other texts you have read or seen

• Re-write, paraphrase, or summarize a particularly difficult passage or scene

• Make meaningful connections to events in your own life, history, and/or the world

• Describe a new perspective that a character in the novel seems to have- how does this connect to the theme?

• Offer analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text

• Point out and discuss literary techniques that the author is using

• Identify the type of narration used- how can this connect to the theme?

• Note changes in narration-why is this significant?

• Identify meanings of chapter titles, character names, setting names- why is this significant?

• Write down questions you have or things that you wonder about

• Look for recurring themes in relation to the novel as a whole

• Identify character motivation

• References to gossip and rumors— how can this connect to the theme?

• References to race- how can this connect to the theme?

• References to mockingbirds- how can this connect to the theme?

• Note when Scout’s perspective is that of a child vs. That of an adult looking back on her life

• Note heroic behavior - how can this connect to the theme?

• Note cowardly behavior- how can this connect to the theme?

• Note figurative language, such as imagery, similes and metaphors- how can this connect to the theme?

• What symbols have you encountered? What might they mean?

• What messages about the world is Harper Lee sending?

***To Kill a Mockingbird continued …***

**3. You will also need to carefully provide complete, thorough, and original answers for 2 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

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?