

HONORS ENGLISH II

Dear sophomores:

Welcome to Honors English II! I know that you will enjoy reading these two wonderful novels this summer. Of course, we will go through them together in detail when you return to school. Your work will be due on the first day of class, and there will be a test on the novels and the vocabulary during the first week of school. Until then, have a great summer and a great time reading!

Ms. Lesley

Summer assignments:

- I. Carefully read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen; make notes in your book as you go, so that you do not have to go back to re-read the book to be ready for the beginning of school.
- II. As you read, find **twenty-five (25)** words in the novel that you do not know. A good source for dictionary definitions is www.dictionary.com, but an even better one is an unabridged dictionary or a good college dictionary (check your local library if you do not own one). **Handwrite** the definitions on sheets of lined paper (computer-generated—i.e., “typed”—definitions will not be accepted; be sure to include page numbers from the book to indicate where you found each word.
- III. Choose **five (5)** quotations from the book that you think are important and type them out on the computer. Think about the meanings and interpretations of the quotations and be prepared to discuss/defend your interpretations in class during the first week of school.
- IV. To help you better understand the novel and to be prepared for class discussion, please answer the following questions:
 1. What are the differences between the city and the country lifestyles in *Pride and Prejudice*? Compare and contrast the opinions of the Bingley sisters and the Bennet sisters concerning the country and the city.
 2. Define the words “caprice” and “capricious.” Can you find evidence of caprice in *Pride and Prejudice*? Cite examples. Why do people change their opinions quickly?
 3. Compare and contrast the aristocracy and the upper middle class as represented in *Pride and Prejudice*. What are the values of the aristocracy? Of the upper middle class? Name four characters who represent each class.
 4. What is the importance of the opinions of friends and family in making one’s own decisions? How do others’ opinions affect our own judgments and decisions? Use three examples from the novel.

5. Define the words *proud*, *pride*, *vanity*, and *conceit*. What are the differences between *conceit* and *pride*? What are the similarities? In what, if any, circumstances does one have a right to be proud? In what, if any, circumstances does one have a right to be conceited?
- V. Carefully read *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens; make notes in your book as you go.
 - VI. As you read, find **twenty-five (25)** words in the novel that you do not know. A good source for dictionary definitions is www.dictionary.com, but an even better one is an unabridged dictionary or a good college dictionary (check your local library if you do not own one). **Handwrite** the definitions on sheets of lined paper (computer-generated—i.e., “typed”—definitions will not be accepted; be sure to include page numbers from the book to indicate where you found each word.
 - VII. Choose **five (5)** quotations from the book that you think are important and type them out on the computer. Think about the meanings and interpretations of the quotations and be prepared to discuss/defend your interpretations in class during the first week of school.
 - VIII. To help you better understand the novel and to be prepared for class discussion, please answer the following questions:
 1. How do you feel about the convict whom Pip helps? What kind of person do you suppose he is? Why do you believe he was put in prison?
 2. What are the circumstances of Pip’s childhood and upbringing? With whom does he live and why?
 3. What does the author do at the end of Chapter 2 to keep readers interested?
 4. Describe Miss Havisham and Estella. What do they look like? Where do they live? What is unusual about their living situation? Now, describe their personalities.
 5. What were Pip’s expectations as a young child? As a young man? What does he expect now?

Note: Except for the vocabulary assignment, all work should be neatly typed and submitted on the first day of class.