

McNairy Central High School
Summer Reading Assignment
Honors English III
2011-2012

I. Required Reading

A Separate Peace

John Knowles

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

During the first quarter of the course we will also study *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Students will need their own personal copy of this novel as well.

II. Writing Assignment (Novel Packet)

For each required selection

Due on the first day of school (prerequisite for taking check test/ essay test)

Specifications:

Computer-generated on white paper

Labeled as specified in outline below

III. Materials Needed for English III Honors

A personal copy of each literary work

A 3-ring notebook with 5 tabbed dividers and college-ruled notebook paper

Pencils and pens

Correction fluid

NOTES PACKET

For each novel, include a cover page with a relevant original design/illustration. *Double-space* the body. *Number and label* as specified in the outline below. Work for quality, not quantity. Be concise; say much with few words. Staple the packet; do NOT use a binder or folder. **The packet may not exceed 5 pages per novel (10 pages total). This includes the cover page for each novel.**

- I. Biographical sketch of the author
- II. Literary period/country (What was going on in the world when the work *was written*? Remember this may be different from the setting.)
- III. Setting (time and place of action)
- IV. Characters (Write a brief character sketch of each major character)
- V. Theme(s)
- VI. Plot Summary (Use complete sentences)
- VII. Literary Devices (Cite at least 3 examples *not including* simile and metaphor)
- VIII. Literary Criticism (minimum 3; include bibliography, MLA style)

A NOTE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS:

Honors English III is an advanced course for college-bound juniors. The content of the course includes British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period through the Seventeenth Century, in addition to four novels. You will participate in several oral presentations and creative projects. You will compose numerous essays and other writing assignments, including frequent journal entries, the annual Pickwick Electric Cooperative essay, and a research paper. In addition, you will complete assignments designed for vocabulary/grammar enrichment.

On the first day of school you will turn in your summer reading reports, and on the first day of the term in which you are enrolled in the course you will be tested on the required reading selections. Students who are *highly* motivated and self-disciplined will thrive in this course. Welcome to English III Honors!