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Summer Reading Assignments for Pre-AP English 2

1. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. **We will have a reading exam over the novel on the second day of class.** In addition, do a double entry response journal. Your journal needs to consist of ten entries. Draw a line down the middle of the page and use the left column to record a passage or phrase that you find particularly interesting or revealing. Number the passages and record the page numbers with them. **Focus on the main characters and elements of characterization: appearance, actions, thoughts, feelings, motives, speech (actual dialogue), reactions of others, and how the characters either change or don't change throughout the novel.** Use the right column to write a 100-word personal and/or analytical response to the passage. (How do you feel or what do you think about what a character thinks, feels, says, or does? What does this passage reveal about the character, theme, plot, etc.?) Do not simply paraphrase or summarize the text. I know the text; I want your reaction to and/or analysis of the passage.

2. Read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Be prepared to discuss Lennie's character, including his **personality**, his **dreams**, his **strengths** (both physical and emotional), the reasons he is **not readily accepted** by others, and how these differences **lead to tragedy**. Mark the above character information directly in your text or by using post-its throughout. You'll need these notes to write about the characters during the first week of school.

Both of these novels are set during the Great Depression (1920s-1930s) and depict the beliefs of its people. While some characters are open-minded and benevolent, others are close-minded and malevolent. I do not agree with the close-minded and malevolent beliefs expressed in the novel or the language reflective of those beliefs. Unfortunately it was part of this culture and our American history. Be sensitive and mature-discuss it with your parents if possible-and keep reading!

These assignments are due the second day of class.

Have a great summer and I'll see you in August!
Mrs. Bossenbroek

For Mercy has a human heart;
Pity, a human face:
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.
--William Blake, "The Divine Image"

Cruelty has a human heart,
And Jealousy a human face--
Terror, the human form divine,
And Secrecy, the human dress.
--William Blake, "The Divine Image"

Feel free to reflect upon these stanzas, not only as they describe wildly divergent aspects of human nature, but also as they relate to one or both of these novels. (No test ☺)