

## Summer Assignment Cover Sheet

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>English 9 Honors</b>
Teacher Name	Mary Holton
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Assignment Title	Honors Summer Assignment
Date Assigned	Summer 2018
Date Due	Reading and writing due first day of class 2018-2019
Objective/Purpose of Assignment	Reading a novel and creating written responses will provide background and framework for close reading and literary analysis throughout the course; the written analysis will also provide an initial sample of student writing.
Description of how Assignment will be Assessed	The responses to the novel will be graded on quality and depth of the analysis as well as grammar, mechanics, and adherence to MLA format.
Grade Value of Assignment	One 50-point test grade
Tools/Resources Needed to Complete Assignment	One of the novels on the list (available to purchase or check out at the library), access to a computer
Estimated Time Needed to Complete Assignment	Assignment will include reading a novel from the list and writing two responses, each with two full length paragraphs. Reading and writing times vary by student, but the writing assignment itself should take no more than 2-3 hours, not including the time it takes to read the novel.

## Rockbridge County High School 2018-2019

### English 9 Honors: Summer Assignment

Welcome to English 9 Honors!

The following required summer assignment is due on the first day of school. It focuses on analyzing textual evidence, which is a skill we will be developing and mastering throughout the school year.

1) Choose a book from the following list. Students can preview these novels by award-winning authors on *ala.org*, *amazon.com*, *goodreads.com* or other credible online sources. Each student should decide on a book after careful deliberation based on descriptions, editorial reviews, and customer reviews, as well as the student's preferences and sensibilities. Each student is responsible for obtaining a copy of the selected book.

- *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Bettie Smith
- *Shakespeare's Sister* by Doris Gwaltney
- *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- *To Try Men's Souls* by Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen

Each student should email his/her selection and any questions to Mrs. Holton at [mary\\_holton@rcs.rang.k12.va.us](mailto:mary_holton@rcs.rang.k12.va.us)

### Part I: READING and ANNOTATING

- 1) As you read, use sticky-notes, highlighting, tabs, hand-written notes in the margin, (or electronic notes or highlights if reading an e-book), to note passages that are particularly relevant to the time period in which the story was written. These excerpts may reveal social trends, attitudes, events, beliefs, and norms for the time period.
- 2) After you finish reading, sort through the sections you have marked and **choose two passages** that reflect the historical elements prominent in the novel. These passages should be lengthy enough to clearly reflect the context of the passage and support your response.

### Part II: WRITING

Using the two quotes from Part I, you will now examine them analytically.

1) For each of the **two passages**, write a two-paragraph response. Please follow the instructions below:

Write the passage exactly as it appears in the book, citing it correctly.

In the **first paragraph** explain how the passage "fits" into the novel. Some suggestions include following:

- a) Explain how the passage helps define or explain the main character's needs, wants, shortcomings, growth/stagnation, or conflicts.
- b) Explain how the passage relates to the novel's plot by intensifying the action, foreshadowing, or creating suspense.
- c) Explain how the passage gives significant details to the setting, either the time period or the physical location.

d) explain how the passage reflects the book's mood or tone.

In the **second paragraph** explain how the historical elements in the passage add to the plot or development of the novel. Some suggestions include:

- a) use what you know about the time period to evaluate the accuracy of the historical elements.
- b) explain how some of the historical aspect affect the plot development. What restrictions may the characters be facing because of the time?
- c) Explain how the historical aspects contribute to the main characters development. What does he/she have to overcome or handle that may not be an issue in today's society?
- d) How does this passage interest YOU as a reader? What do you find particularly intriguing about this time period?

*Please remember: Though I encourage you to use credible Internet sources to help you choose your book, what you write about your book should be strictly your own work. Please do not use any outside sources or help with this assignment.*

### **Part III: FORMATTING YOUR PAPER**

- 1) Type responses using Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double space.
- 2) Use MLA style for **in-text citations** and **your Work(s) Cited page**. Because the responses should be your own creation, you should only have to cite your novel.
- 3) Consult the link below for any clarification regarding MLA style for in-text citations.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/>

Again, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the assignment. I am excited to meet you all! Have a wonderful summer and see you in August!