

Honors English 9 Summer Assignment 2022-2023 Academic School Year

Welcome to Honors English 9! This summer you will be expected to read one novel and complete the related assignments which will help you to build background knowledge, retain information about characters, conflicts, and themes, and show off your analytical skills through an essay.

Please read all information that follows carefully. If you have questions after reading this, please contact me by email at asnider@turlock.k12.ca.us or sign up for the class remind by texting the message @8437ga to the number 81010

All of the assignments described below will be due by the **first day of school (August 10, 2022)**. There will not be any exceptions made regarding the due date. All assignments must be typed on a google document and must be easily accessible on the first day of school (in other words, make sure you use your TUSD account so that you can pull up the assignments in class). If you do not have access to a TUSD account, please email me so we can make other arrangements.

SUMMER NOVEL: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. This book is available to pick up at the Turlock High School bookroom **between MAY 31st-- JUNE 9th during the hours of 7am--1pm**. You may also pick up your chromebook during that time. The THS bookroom will not have either available to you after the dates provided. If you do not pick your book up on one of those days, you must purchase it online, borrow from the Stanislaus County Library, or find it for free through various online sources.

Create a google document to type all assignments on (Research Assignment, Character Tracking, and the Essay). The assignments should be included in the same order as listed below and each assignment should begin on a new page of the same google document.

Assignment 1: Research Assignment Due August 10, 2022 (first day of school)

Before you read, complete the research assignment described below. If you do not have access to the internet or the local library, please contact me to obtain an alternate assignment.

Search the internet for several articles that contain information about John Steinbeck, the Great Depression, and the Dust Bowl (make sure you research all three). Read 2-3 articles about each topic. After you have gained an understanding of each of the topics mentioned previously, write a three-four paragraph response in which you clearly SUMMARIZE what you learned (remember, a summary will consist of your **own words**). Provide the links for all sources you used at the bottom of the summary.

Assignment 2: Read *Of Mice and Men*

There will be a test on this novel during the first week of school—read closely and carefully (and review before school starts, especially if you read the novel at the beginning of summer break). This test will ask specific questions that will most successfully be answered by actually reading the text carefully; please do not rely on Sparknotes, Shmoop, or any other similar website as your main source of information about the novel.

All work submitted must be your original work. Plagiarism is the act of using another person's IDEAS or WORDS and passing them off as one's own. You will upload your work to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) (a plagiarism detection website) and if any assignments are found to be plagiarized (copy/pasted from the internet or another student for example), those assignments will receive a zero and you will not be able to make up the assignment or points lost.

Assignment 3: Character Tracking Due August 10, 2022 (first day of school)

As you read, you need to keep notes on the **following SIX characters**: George, Lennie, Candy, Curley, Curley's Wife, and Crooks. For each character, you need to type out information about their

- character traits
- conflicts
- relationships with others
- hopes/dreams
- one significant quote said by or about each character (include page number)
- and any other information that you feel is important

You may organize this information into a table or into a list, but please make sure it is organized clearly.

Assignment 4: Essay Due August 10, 2022 (first day of school)

Choose ONE of the following prompts to respond to in a 4-5 paragraph essay (introduction, 2-3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion). This is your opportunity to showcase your writing skills so please put your best effort into it. In your essay, you must cite direct quotations from the novel and use specific examples to support your opinion. Refrain from using first person (I, me, my, myself) and second person (you, your, you're, yourself) in your response (the exception would be quoted text from *Of Mice and Men*).

- Look at the various examples of discrimination in *Of Mice and Men*. How does discrimination affect different characters? How do characters respond to discrimination, how does it affect their lives, and the outcome of the story?
- Analyze Steinbeck's portrayal of Curley's wife as the lone female on the all-male ranch. What ways does Curley's wife exercise power over others and in what ways is she subject to the power of others?
- Many characters in *Of Mice and Men* are plagued by loneliness and alienation and are searching for friendship and acceptance. Write a response that analyzes how two-three of the characters are affected by loneliness and how their search for friendship motivates their decisions within the text.
- Think about different characters in *Of Mice and Men* and the power (or lack of) that they have. What different kinds of power do different characters have? Where does it come from? What do they do with it? How does it help them or hurt them?

I look forward to meeting you all in August!
Abbi Snider

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