

English I, 2023-2024 Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Future English I Honors Students and Parents,

I am looking forward to working with you next year as we begin your journey into English I Honors. We will begin the school year with an in-depth study of Harper Lee's classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

I will answer questions periodically via email in July, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you need clarification or help. If you need answers sooner than July, you may try contacting Ms. Gold.

The Summer Reading Assignment (SRA) will be posted online and will be available at the front office. *Caution: Please do not wait until the last week of summer to begin the assignment.*

I hope you have a great summer!

Ms. Beard

amanda.beard@wimberleyisd.net

Overview of the Assignment

1. You will read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.
2. As you read, you will complete the Literary Scavenger Hunt. You will use your findings from the Scavenger Hunt to complete your Annotations.
3. After you read each SECTION in the book (there are two sections), you will respond to its corresponding writing prompts / questions. This is the "Reflections" part of the assignment.
4. **You will type your Annotations and Reflections in ONE document and turn it in on Google Classroom on THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.**
5. You will take an in-class test in the first six weeks of school, as well as write an essay in which you analyze an assigned character from the novel.

Specific instructions for the Literary Scavenger Hunt, the Annotations, and the Reflections are provided below and on the following pages.

Parents: You are encouraged to preview the novel in order to review the content and themes. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, preferably prior to the last week of the summer.

LITERARY SCAVENGER HUNT & ANNOTATIONS

- As you read the novel, complete the **Literary Scavenger Hunt** by placing Post-it notes in your book when you find one of the literary elements from the table shown at the top of the next page.
- The book is separated into two main sections. For EACH section (*not chapter*), find an example or quote for each of the literary and style elements listed in the table below. You should end up with a total of 30 annotations for the entire novel (15 per section).
- Since there are 15 literary and style elements listed in this chart, it should be obvious that you should not use a literary or style element more than once in either section.

Primary Literary Elements	Style Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characterization—direct and indirect; character motivations • Characterization—dynamic, archetypal, and stereotypical • Internal Conflict • External Conflict • Elements of Plot—exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution; plus, foreshadowing and flashback • Point of view • Setting—includes any significant objects within the physical settings, as well as time, place, and atmosphere • Theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irony • Symbolism—including motifs • Imagery • Allusion • Personification • Tone • Diction—significant word choices and / or dialect

- You will write your **Annotations** in a dialectical journal by doing the following:
 - Create a table (exactly like the ones shown on pages 4 and 5).
 - In the left-hand column, write the quotes or examples (one quote or example per row). Number the quotes and include the page number(s) on which the quote / example appears. There should be a blank line space before and after the quote.
 - In the right-hand column:
 - First, identify the Literary Element or the Style Element used in the quote / example. Remember to change the label as needed.
 - Skip a line and *briefly* explain the context of the quote / example.
 - Then, skip a line and write your analysis of the literary / style element and the quote / example in the context in which it is used. Do not simply summarize what happens or identify the type of character or conflict, for example. The sample analyses on pages 4 and 5 provide a good idea of the type of analysis you're expected to write.

REFLECTIONS & FORMATTING

- After reading each section of the book, write your reflections (answers) to the questions shown below. Be specific and use details from the novel.
- Each Reflection response must be a minimum of 15 lines of text (*not* 15 sentences) per question.
 - Use 1-inch margins for all assignments in these SRA instructions.
 - Single space the Annotations.
 - Double space the Reflections.
- Reflections should appear after your Annotations.

Part ONE of the book:

1. Why do you think the Radley Place is so important?
2. What is your opinion of Atticus Finch? Explain your answer.
3. What predictions can you make as to what happens in part 2? What made you think of these predictions?

Part TWO of the book:

4. Do you think it was okay for Dill, Jem, and Jean to go to the trial? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think Boo Radley never comes out of his house?
6. How would the book be different if the setting were changed to modern times? How would it be the same? Explain your answers.

A Few Final Notes

- ★ In your Annotations, every quote and example must be significant and / or have substance; otherwise, you will find analyzing the quote or example in a substantive way to be very difficult. Even if a quote or example uses a literary element you're searching for, that doesn't always mean it's a substantive quote or example.
- ★ When writing annotations and reflections, ***go deep***. You are essentially thinking of all possibilities and having a sort of conversation with the text itself. What does it mean? Why did the author include it? How does it relate to other literary devices? How does it reflect a possible theme in the novel? (Please don't write: "to help the reader understand it better.")
- ★ **IMPORTANT:** The use of *SparkNotes* or any other similar resource for any part of this assignment will be considered cheating and will result in an automatic zero.
- ★ **IMPORTANT:** I will be running Originality Checks in Google Classroom which will flag any plagiarism. Make sure your work is your own!

Sample Annotations from *To Kill a Mockingbird* appear on this and the next page.

***DO NOT USE THESE SAME EXAMPLES OR QUOTES.
THERE ARE MANY MORE FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE.***

Example 1

1). Quote:

“Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don’t eat up people’s gardens, don’t nest in corncribs, they don’t do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.”

Page 119

Scavenger Hunt Style Element:

Symbol

Context: Atticus had told his children that it was a sin to kill a mockingbird, and the children asked their neighbor, Miss Maudie, why that was so.

Analysis: The mockingbird is a symbol of all that is innocent—that is, it does no harm to others and simply provides people with pleasure upon hearing it sing. The motif of innocence recurs in the novel with Boo Radley and Tom Robinson, two characters who are helpful and benign but who have reputations that closed-minded, small town citizens of Maycomb can’t seem to shake. Boo is ostracized and labeled as a monster because of his erratic behavior when he was a teenager, and Tom is hated mostly because he is a black man whom a white woman accused of rape. Like the mockingbird, Boo is helpful and generous to the children who feared him, and Tom Robinson was kind and helpful to the woman who ultimately (and falsely) accused him of rape. Unlike the rabid dog who symbolizes a type of madness that Atticus and his family had to face throughout the trial, mockingbirds, like Boo and Tom, do no harm, and this is why it would be a sin to kill them. The dog, on the other hand, posed great danger and therefore needed to be shot and killed. (The madness had to be stopped).

Example 2

2). Quote:

“Scout,” said Atticus, “when summer comes you’ll have to keep your head about far worse things . . . it’s not fair for you and Jem, I know that, but sometimes we have to make the best of things, and the way we conduct ourselves when the chips are down—well, all I can say is, when you and Jem are grown, maybe you’ll look back on this with some compassion and some feeling that I didn’t let you down.”

Page 139

[Note: The ellipsis points in this quote are actually used in the book. No text has been left out.]

Scavenger Hunt Literary Element: Plot—foreshadowing

Context: Atticus is telling both of his children that things will only get worse once the trial begins.

Analysis: Atticus knows what kind of town Maycomb is, and his children, Scout and Jem, are already experiencing taunting and bullying from other children who come from families that resent Atticus defending a black man. Already, Scout has had to restrain herself from getting into fights at school, and Atticus has been warning his children to stay out of fights and to ignore the taunts and insults. He tries to prepare them for the intensity to increase once the trial begins, where he will defend his black client against a white woman who accuses him of raping her. In addition to Atticus foreshadowing the troubling events that will most likely happen in the summer, he also foreshadows how his children will look back on these events, and him, once they reach adulthood. His hope is that he has taught his children how to show and feel empathy for others. In this specific example of foreshadowing, we are given insight into what makes Atticus one of the best-loved characters in the story: his courage in the face of great adversity.