

English 10 Honors
Summer Assignment

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Welcome to English 10 Honors. I look forward to meeting all of you and exploring great literature together. We will start our journey this summer by reading two great American novels: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. These are available in our library, but I encourage you to purchase your own copies if possible. That way you can annotate them as you read. Careful annotation helps you to support your discussion and writing with specific, relevant references to the text. If you do not choose to purchase your own copy, check one out from the YHS Library. It is open through finals week and again during the summer school sessions.

There will be a test on both novels on the first day of school. That test will include multiple choice questions and essay questions. Read the novels carefully and do not rely on the Internet in lieu of that close reading. I do not use those sites when I write exams, so that kind of cursory understanding of the novel will not help you on the test. Being honors students should mean that you have a natural intellectual curiosity and a love of learning. Let your actions reflect that philosophy.

Failure to complete the summer assignment will not lead to reassignment to a regular English 10 class. Our class sizes are set well before the first day, and you will not be allowed to switch out of this class because you chose not to do the required summer assignment. The first day test on the summer reading will be worth a significant number of points and will adversely affect your grade in the course for some time if you fail it. On the other hand, if you read the novels you should do well and begin your semester with a solid grade.

Enjoy your reading and the rest of your summer. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Weigel
English Department
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