

Assignments for Rising Ninth Graders

ALL assignments are due on the first day of school

ACCORDING TO THE ASSIGNMENTS/CLASSES, ALL STUDENTS SHOULD READ TWO BOOKS: ONE BOOK FOR ENGLISH CLASS AND ONE BOOK FOR MODERN WORLD HISTORY CLASS. PLEASE CONTACT MRS. ZALAC IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR DO NOT KNOW WHICH BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ: SZalac@academyatthelakes.org.

Modern World History: *There Must Be an Ocean Between Us: Letters of Separation and Survival* by Thea Lindauer

English I: *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar

English I Honors: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

There Must Be an Ocean Between Us: Letters of Separation and Survival
(ALL Modern World History Students) NOTE: this book is out of print, but can be purchased on Amazon.com by clicking on this [link](#).

Part I: Watch an introduction to the book by the author:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfh_chnFHu0&safe=active

Part II: Fill in the PERSIA chart (click [here](#) to download the chart.). While you read and come across relevant information, make note of *political, economic, religious, social, etc.* A minimum of three or more bullet points is expected for each section.

Part III: Choose ONE of the following assignments:

- A. Write a letter to Mrs. Thea Lindauer. Please be thoughtful when you write your letter. Mrs. Rodowsky, your social studies teacher, and her family are friends with her, so the letter will be sent in a package to Mrs. Lindauer at the beginning of the school year. Before you begin writing, consider what is appropriate to write to her. We expect that she will read and maybe even respond to your letter. You may handwrite or type the letter. Your letter is expected to be two or more pages in length if it's handwritten. If it's typed, the letter is expected to be a full page (double-spaced, 12 font).
- B. Make a movie trailer for the book. At this point, the book has not been made into a movie; however, it would be neat if it became one! Create a possible movie trailer. The movie trailer must be at least 3 minutes long. Please include enough information to inform the viewers about the book but not too much information that the trailer may spoil the

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book. You may use any type of software (i-Movie, PowerPoint, etc) to complete the movie. Be creative! Prior to your first class, email the file as an attachment to Mrs. Rodowsky
krodowsky@academyatthelakes.org

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie (English I only)

Directions: Be prepared to turn in your work to your **English teacher** on the **first day** of school. Your work should be typed and double-spaced. Answers will vary in length; however, most will be approximately a paragraph. Support your answers with specific details and quotations. When quotations are used, include the page number. Proper mechanics, varied sentence structure and strong word choice are expected.

- 1a. One of the themes in *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* is that actions have consequences. Support this idea with a specific example from the novel. Include important details.
- 1b. Think of a time when an action of yours resulted in a positive or negative consequence. Share the action and the result of the action.
2. Scott is a dynamic character, which means he changes/develops during the course of the story. Offer at least two specific ways in which Scott's character changes and the causes of change.
3. Think about the characters in *SFNL*. Which character is your least favorite? Explain why. Be specific in your answer.
4. Choose a conflict that significantly contributes the plot. Explain the conflict and how it drives the story.
5. Another theme in *SFNL* is tolerance. Support this idea with a specific example from the novel. Include important details.

To Kill a Mockingbird (English I Honors only)

All incoming English 1 Honors students must read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and complete the following two-part assignment. Assignments must be submitted on the **second day of school and count as a major grade.**

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I. Annotation Assignment:

While you study a literary work, you should be in the habit of taking notes throughout the text and in the margins as you read. As you read novels in this class, I will ask you to annotate them for the elements the authors use in order to effectively communicate ideas.

Choose three chapters to annotate in *TKAM*. In essence, you will complete a “close reading.” A close reading is a thoughtful, critical analysis of text that focuses on significant details or patterns in order to develop a deep, precise understanding of the text's form, craft, meanings, etc.

When you annotate, look for literary elements, such as foreshadowing, conflict, symbolism, etc. that the author uses to convey his meaning. In addition to identifying and labeling, write meaningful notes in the margins that show connections to other works and personal connections, reflections (your thoughts), **and** insights. To earn an A, you must go beyond what most see when they read. You should comment on every page of each chapter you choose.

II. Extended Response Assignment

Read and answer the following questions. Answers will vary in length; however, most will be approximately a paragraph (9 – 12 sentences). Support your answers with textual evidence from the novel and include parenthetical documentation (author and page number). Address literary elements and make personal connections. Include proper mechanics, as well as strong sentence structure and word choice. Your answers must be insightful, meaningful, and memorable.

Please type and double-space your responses. I will assess both the quality of your ideas *and* the quality of your writing.

1. In discussing Mrs. Dubose, Atticus tells Jem, “I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.” Explain how this statement by Atticus defines his own struggle/journey in defending Tom Robinson.
2. Prior to Jem and Scout walking to the school for her pageant, Scout says, “Thus began our longest journey together.” Explain this statement. Consider the literary elements that are being employed and their purpose and/or effects.
3. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is told from Scout’s perspective. Choose one situation that would have been drastically different if told from another character’s perspective.
4. Atticus says to Scout, “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk

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around in it.” Explain what Atticus means and offer an example from the novel or a personal anecdote to support your answer.

5. Jem says, “There’s four kinds of folks in the world. There’s the ordinary kind like us and the neighbors, there’s the kind like the Cunninghams out in the woods, the kind like the Ewells down at the dump, and the Negroes. Scout says in response, “Naw, Jem, I think there’s just one kind of folks. Folks.” What is your reaction to Scout’s reply?