

**KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ENGLISH 9 HONORS ~ SUMMER 2016 ASSIGNMENT**

Welcome to Kennedy Catholic High School where your academic journey begins this summer! In order to prevent learning losses from the previous school year and to increase learning levels in the next school year, we assign reading and writing to all students each summer. We hope that as you continue to hone your reading and writing skills, you will also enjoy the literature!

Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled in English 9 Honors are asked to complete the following 3 assignments:

1. Purchase a paperback edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. As you read the novel, annotate the text. To annotate is to highlight, to underline, and to make brief notes in the margins. Taking such steps will help ensure that you are actively reading. Among other things, your annotations should reflect (a) traits of characters (b) descriptions of settings (c) key developments in plot (d) references to the title (e) examples of foreshadowing, irony, and symbols.
2. In response to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, please write a 250 – 300 word essay about a major theme. (This should be computer-generated or neatly written in blue or black ink on loose leaf paper.) Keep in mind that a literary work's theme is the author's opinion about a subject. The subject, or topic, acts as a foundation to the story. One way of considering theme is to pose this question: *What insight about life does the writer offer in this story?*
3. Purchase a paperback edition of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Please answer these 2 questions in approximately 8 – 12 sentences each. (This should be computer-generated or neatly written in blue or black ink on loose leaf paper.)
  - (a) In your opinion, who was the most powerful, intriguing, puzzling, or sympathetic character? Why? Cite the character's words and actions to support your claims.
  - (b) Write about 2 significant quotations. Begin by copying each quotation and identifying its speaker (which may be the narrator.) Then explain why you feel it's an important excerpt. Keep the novel for use during the first few weeks of classes.

The annotated *To Kill a Mockingbird* as well as the writing assignments (*Animal Farm* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*) will be collected on the first day of classes. Besides receiving a grade for these assignments, you will have a few more assessments on these literary works (following discussion in class.)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Spelman (English Department) via email: [wspelman@kennedycatholic.org](mailto:wspelman@kennedycatholic.org). Enjoy the summer! Looking forward to welcoming you to Kennedy Catholic High School soon!