

English Department Summer Work

Freshmen:

English I-A:

June 2020

To: The Parents and Students of the Class of 2024:

Re: Summer Reading

Welcome aboard! We know you are ready to hit the ground running toward academic excellence here at Saints. Your first opportunity to shine in your English classes will be the discussion and testing on the summer reading books. The list below is for student in: **English I-A.**

ENGLISH 1-A: Students enrolled in English 1-A will read *Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

- Students should practice “**active reading**” as they read. Students are instructed to use **post-it** notes to facilitate note taking in the following areas: the main characters, the importance of the setting, the conflicts, the rising action, the climax, and the falling action of the plot. Students should also include post-it notes on the appropriate pages about important symbols and the author’s thematic message.

We have checked on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble (www.bn.com) and all books are readily available in paperback. They even have some used copies available. They are also available in local bookstores and libraries. Any use of *Cliff’s*, *Spark’s* or other “shortcuts” is forbidden and unnecessary since these books are well within the reading capabilities of incoming ninth graders.

Each student **must have** his own copy of each book with him in English class! Tests on these books will be given during the opening weeks of school in the fall.

Thank you very much, happy reading, and have great summer.

Mrs. Janene Palafox

Mr. Travis Blumer

Freshmen Honors English:

Read *The Crucible* by Miller and *On the Beach* by Shute.

Students will be tested on these texts during the year. As an assignment, students should complete a simple time line for each story and an analysis of the main character from each story and their effect on the other characters from that story.

Sophomores:

English II—Summer Reading Study Guide

Welcome back to St. Augustine High School! It's exciting to welcome you into English II!!

At St. Augustine, part of the English II curriculum is an assigned summer reading for every student. **And please take note that you're going to be quizzed on your reading assignment during the first full week of school. The quiz will consist of 50 questions that include character matching and multiple-choice questions that will assess your reading comprehension skills.**

In addition, during the first three weeks of the fall semester, your class and I will be discussing and analyzing the novel you've read. **This summer's novel is *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley.** In order to help your understanding of this work and to help prepare for your quiz, I have created some study guide questions for you.

Directions: Answer all of the 8 questions listed below. Your answers should be:

- Typed or written in complete sentences
- Thorough and insightful
- Provide specific examples to show your ideas in action
- Should be **at least five sentences.**

Please note: each response needs to have at least one quote from the novel in order to support your answers and show your ideas in action.

1. Who was Frankenstein?
2. What was Victor Frankenstein when he created the monster?
3. Where was the Creature created?
4. Was there a helper to create the Creature?
5. What does the Creature look like?
6. How did Victor bring the Creature to life?
7. True or false, the Creature is evil and clumsy from the start?
8. The monster is evil because he was given the brain of a criminal?

Honors English II: no summer work

Juniors:

English III-A: English 3A (Cudal); Read Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck; and Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Students will be tested on these texts during the year. As an assignment, students should complete a simple time line for each story and an analysis of the main character from each story and their effect on the other characters from that story.

AP Language & Composition: no summer work

Seniors:

English IV: no summer work

AP Literature and Composition:

Dear Student,

I am excited you have chosen to take AP English Literature. Although you will be pushed to your limits, I assure you, we will have a year that you will not soon forget. We have a wide world of literature, poetry, and music to explore. You have a high standard to live up to, but I have no doubt you will exceed my expectations. In order to make sure you are in 'working condition,' there will be a couple of summer assignments that are to be completed by the 2nd day of school. I encourage you to not wait until the last week of summer to get started. Please remind fellow classmates that are prone to 'lose' these types of messages about the assignment. It is imperative that you start the year off on the right foot.

Locate *The Metamorphosis*, a short story by Franz Kafka. The story can either be found on-line or at a local library. If looking to purchase the story, it will be included in any collection of Kafka's writings. Be prepared to discuss the plot, along with (and much more importantly) the deeper meanings and implications of the text. You should also have a grasp of Kafka's background and how it influenced his writing. In a typed essay (no more than a page, double spaced), explain the symbolism behind Gregor turning into a bug.

Also, most of the first semester will be spent applying to colleges. To give you a head start on the process, formulate a response to 4 of the 8 UC questions on the back of this sheet (350 max per response): In addition, pick one of the Common App topics (on the back) and write a comprehensive response (250 word minimum).

Be sure that the responses are typed and saved for future editing.

Note: I highly recommend taking the College Workshop

With the summer finally upon us, be sure to get out and enjoy the next couple months of 'freedom' before embarking on your last year as a high school student. Even though I will be prepping for the upcoming school year, I have quite a few waves to catch myself.

Best,

John T. Lamerato

- 1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.**
- 2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.**
- 3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?**
- 4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.**
- 5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?**
- 6. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.**
- 7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**
- 8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?**

Common App -- The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. *What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores?* Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

2020-2021 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from *obstacles we encounter* can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a *challenge, setback, or failure*. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you *questioned* or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your *thinking*? What *was the outcome*?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or *realization* that *sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others*.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.