May 22, 2023

Dear incoming Honors English 10 students and families

Congratulations on your choice to take the honors level of 10th grade English next year! Below you will find information on the summer assignment required for the course. If you have any immediate questions about this work, please see Mrs. Kolter (room 151) before the end of the year.

Description of the Summer Work:

1. Read John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men\**. You may pick up a book from Mrs. Kolter (151) before the end of the school year, or you can obtain your own copy to read this summer. You will need this book at the beginning of the school year.   
     
   \*Please be aware that this text does contain some mild language and racial slurs. Know that our school district does not condone the use of this language and that we will not use this language aloud when discussing this text. Parents and families do have the right to request an alternate text option for their student. Please contact Mrs. Leon (curriculum chair) or Mrs. Kolter if you would like to discuss this option.
2. Complete the Active Reading Strategies assignment using the directions enclosed in this letter. For each chapter of *Of Mice and Men* (there are six), write two active reading strategy “entries” (for a total of twelve active reading strategy entries). Each entry should include the following: the number that coordinates with the active reading strategy, a brief summary of the chapter, a quote that supports the active reading strategy, and a discussion of the application of the active reading strategy within the chapter. Type or handwrite your entries and bring them with you on the first day of school. A graphic organizer is included with the strategies—please use that if it helps you.
3. In addition to the required reading and writing stated above, I want to encourage you to read *anything* you can over the summer. Students who are successful in honors English tend to be readers, and doing any amount of reading will only support you next year!

I am looking forward to an exciting year in Honors English 10! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mrs. Kolter  
[koltlin@sdmfschools.org](mailto:koltlin@sdmfschools.org)

See next page for assignment details.

Honors 10– Summer Reading Assignment

As you should know, Active Reading is important to your success as an English student; when you Actively Read, you actually learn, and you give the text a deeper meaning.

Below, you will see several different Active Reading Strategies (ARS). As you read *Of Mice and Men*, it is your task to choose two ARS per chapter to use **for a total of 12**.

Please write the number that coordinates with your chosen ARS; take down a few notes over the chapter; provide a quote that supports your ARS; and discuss the ARS within the chapter. Follow the model on the back of this page—again, you should have two entries per chapter for a total of 12. Type or handwrite your assignment and bring it with you on the first day of school.

Active Reading Strategies

1. Take note of statements that seem to address something bigger than what is happening on the surface of the plot. What is the author really saying about life or human nature?
2. Look for comparisons or contrasts. What insight can be gained by these similarities or differences?
3. Look for insight in the characters. What do the characters words and actions show us about human nature?
4. What are (or could be) the consequences or ramifications of an event or statement?
5. Look for figurative language. What insight, lesson, or point is provided by the simile, metaphor, or symbol?
6. Evaluate. Ask, “Are these actions or attitudes being criticized or applauded by the author?”
7. Look for places where key concepts or ideas are linked or connected to each other. Ask, “Where else have I seen this concept in the novel?”
8. Read between the lines. Ask, “What can be implied or inferred by this statement or event?” What is the unstated point, idea, or conclusion?
9. What’s the life lesson and how might it affect the character?

Each ARS must be used at least once.

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| --- | --- |
| **Chapter 1** | **ARS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Summary/notes on the chapter:** | |
| **Textual evidence noted:** | |
| **Discussion of the ARS within the chapter:** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Chapter 2** | **ARS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Summary/notes on the chapter:** | |
| **Textual evidence noted:** | |
| **Discussion of the ARS within the chapter:** | |

\*Continue this structure with the remaining chapters.