

PLAINFIELD EAST HIGH SCHOOL

English 10 Honors

Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Parents and Incoming Sophomore **Honors** Students:

As part of our goal to expand reading opportunities for students, the English Department is requiring that all incoming English 10 Honors students read a novel over the summer. The purpose of this summer reading is to help promote the critical thinking and reading analysis skills needed for success in the honors program.

Additionally, many honors students will take the AP examinations during their junior year, thus it is imperative that each student is exposed to a wide range and background of literature, especially in the area of twentieth century authors and issues. Like Stratford P. Sherman, author of *America Won't Win Till it Reads More*, we believe "Reading transcends the mere transmission of information: It fosters an imaginative dialogue between the text and the reader's mind that actually helps people think."

The following selections have been chosen for the English 10 Honors students. Please, choose **ONE** of the following novels and complete a reader's log (the directions are the front and back of attached handout) to be turned in to the English 10 Honors teacher the **FIRST** day of student attendance. **Honors students need to bring a copy of their novel and the completed assignment on the first day of class.** You will submit your journal into www.turnitin.com during the first week of class.

This letter and the actual assignment are also included on the Plainfield East High school website: <http://www.psd202.org/PEHS/>

✘ *The Martian Chronicles* – by Ray Bradbury

✘ *The Joy Luck Club* – by Amy Tan

✘ *Cat's Cradle* – by Kurt Vonnegut

✘ *Things Fall Apart* – by Chinua Achebe

✘ *The Book Thief* – by Markus Zusak

Common Inquiries Concerning Summer Reading:

- When should you read your novel and complete the assignment? It is suggested you complete the novel / assignment in August.
- Why? Beginning the novel in August provides ample time for completion as well as questions, and the novel will still be fresh in your mind when you return to school.
- Who can I contact if I have questions?
Email:
Fatima Chishti (fchishti@psd202.org)
Laura Shoplas (lshoplas@psd202.org)
Donna Hornik (dhornik@psd202.org)

You also can consult a friend, a parent, or even the World Wide Web. Talking about and discussing your novel with someone else will greatly accelerate your understanding and comprehension of the novel.

- Where can I get a copy of the novel? Any of the local bookstores will carry a variety of editions of each novel. It does not matter which edition you read or who the publisher is as long as it is not an abridged edition. You also can order any of the novels (new or used copies) from Amazon.com or most bookstores found online. Also, many novels in full text can be found online. We will do our best to post these for you on the school website.

Thank you,

Tania Shepherd
English Department Chair
Plainfield East High School
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Creating a Dialectical Journal

The purpose of a dialectical journal is to identify significant pieces of text and explain the significance. It is another form of highlighting/annotating a text and should be used to think about, digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read.

This kind of writing is done in two columns with a quotation or fact from the text (*including page numbers*) on the left and the reader's corresponding comment on the right. It is evaluated on the basis of its quality as well as quantity; therefore, the reader will want to put thought into each entry. **Students should respond on a frequent, consistent basis throughout the reading of the novel. Suggested minimum is 40 comments.**

Quotation from Text	Reaction / Analysis
Sentence, line, phrase, or paraphrase that demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effective use of stylistic or literary devices • Structural shifts or turns in the plot • Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, or motifs • Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary • Character development • A connection to another piece of literature • Events that you find surprising or confusing 	In this column, you will analyze the quotation from the text.

Examples:

Quotation from Text	Reaction / Analysis
“I fled down an alley, past dark curtained shops and merchants washing the grime off their windows. I sped into the sunlight, into a large street crowded with tourists examining trinkets and souvenirs” (Tan 100). “This necklace that had almost bought my heart and mind now had one bead of crushed glass” (231).	This quotation is a great example of a light and dark reference because the dark alley represents Waverly’s sheltered life at home, and the sun-filled street represents the world she hasn’t yet discovered. The necklace was glass, not pearls. This is a reoccurring theme; the outside may be beautiful, but really, you can’t just trust the way something looks.
Frank Hoenikker / Felix Hoenikker (Vonnegut 74-76). “In order to boost Monzano’s popularity, 194-199, 216...xylophone virtuoso, 71” (120).	I think Vonnegut’s purpose for creating Frank is for him to be a foil character to Felix. They are similar in that neither are loud, forceful people but are more passive. Both are also men of science but where Felix seemed to have no care of emotion, Frank has a conscience and a motive for his work. Vonnegut’s writing style here reminds me of Daniel Handler’s a.k.a. Lemony Snicket. They both use the sort of over-the-top, eccentric writing style. Vonnegut demonstrates this when he uses almost a whole page of index references to give the reader a small amount of information about Mona. Handler commonly does the same type of thing to give the reader information about a character, setting, or plot.

