

## Summer Reading: English 1-2H 2009-2010

English 1-2H is the introductory course to the Advanced Placement English Program and covers a wide range of literature from around the world. Through the year freshmen study various themes in works of literary merit, along with the major archetypes that permeate world literature. The writing portion of the course concentrates on enhancing the student's skills in literary critique, revolving mainly around the five-paragraph essay.

To prepare for this class, students will be expected to read two novels over the summer. **The first one, *Speak*, by Laurie Halsey Anderson, is required.** During the first week of school, students will take an objective test (multiple choice, true/false, matching) that will also include two short essay questions over this book. This test will cover plot, characters, setting, and themes but will also require some literary analysis.

For the second novel, choose one from the books listed below. You will be expected to keep a dialectic journal (see example below) as you read, regardless of your date of registration for this class; **this journal is due on the first day of class, Monday, August 17.** Also, during the first week of school, you will be asked to write an in-class essay in which you correctly incorporate quotations or parts of quotations from your journal into your response using MLA style documentation. Remember that this will be not only one of your first few grades for the year, but it will also be the first impression your teacher will have of you. Consider the presentation (neatness and legibility) of the dialectic journal as well as the quality of its content.

### Choose one:

*Separate Peace*  
*Ella Minnow Pea*  
*Ironman*  
*Ender's Game*  
*Painted House*  
*The Secret Life of Bees*

John Knowles  
Mark Dun  
Chris Crutcher  
Orson Scott Card  
John Grisham  
Sue Monk Kidd

### Dialectic Journal

Divide your sheet down the middle. In the left-hand column, you will write or type a quotation from the novel that strikes you as being particularly noteworthy in some way. This does NOT have to be a conversation but should be something that gives insight into the plot, characters, setting, themes, or other literary elements of the novel. Be sure to include the page number on which you found the quotation because this will be required in your parenthetical documentation for your in-class essay. In the right-hand column, you will add your own commentary about why you chose this quotation, how it fits with the rest of the book, what it made you think about, what it shows about characters, setting, themes, or what literary terms you think it especially exemplifies. You should have a minimum of 30 journal entries that **show honesty, integrity, quality of thinking, and maturity of original thought as well as completion on the entire novel.** In order to receive an A on your journal, your commentary responses must be at least five sentences each. Study the example below.

#### Quotation

"Floyd's granny was sitting in her lawn chair next to me looking right into the camera with the same flat expression mother had, as though she could see something farther on and out of sight" (King 216).

\*Notice that the period follows the documentation.

#### Commentary

(This shows that) Will recognized the depths of other people around him. His mother had been a strong focus in his life, and although he may have taken her for granted when he was a child, he does, as an adult, begin to appreciate both her pain and her strength. He is even beginning to see what it is that is "farther on and out of sight." (This also shows that) Will himself is a rich, full character who, through his own insight, can see deeply into people. Perhaps this is what makes him so tolerant. Will's struggle to understand himself and his own relationships continues.

\*The commentary carries more weight in grading than the quote selection.

On the reverse, you will find the scoring rubric used for all Honors and AP writing. You must score at least "6" to remain in the program.

9-8

- Excellent use of thoughtfully chosen, apt, and specific concrete details and references to the text
- Response to the prompt and/or topic is cogent (convincing); insightful, and perceptive commentary and interpretation--free of plot summary; ideas are expressed with clarity and skill; skillfully addresses the “what,” the “how,” and the “why” in the prompt.
- Well organized with careful development; excellent thesis; logically ordered, strong conclusion; smooth transitions (not “First...Second...)
- Well-written, with pleasing sentence variety, sound sentence structure (no fragments, run-ons), precise and fresh diction (word choice) Uses third person (if necessary) and few “to be” verbs.
- Virtually no errors in conventions such as spelling, grammar, usage, and mechanics.  
*A 9 essay is above the pack--fresh, sophisticated, marked with stylistic finesse.*

7-6

- Effectively uses well-chosen and specific concrete details and references to the text
- Commentary and analysis are thoughtful and convincing, but less insightful and less developed than 9-8. Effectively addresses the “what” and the “how,” but may miss the “why.”
- Sound organization, intelligent, but less effective thesis, logically ordered, effective conclusion, good use of transitions.
- Well-written, with some sentence variety; good sentence structure, high-level and varied diction. Uses third person (if appropriate) .
- Few errors in conventions--spelling, grammar, usage, and mechanics.  
*A 7 paper will have more developed analysis and development and have better control over sentence structure, diction, and conventions. A 6 is a “safe” paper; carefully done, but needs more.*

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- Contains and uses concrete details and textual references correctly, but it may be superficial, obvious, and/or vague
- Commentary is generic, but contains some analysis. Writing displays writer’s ideas in an overly generalized fashion.
- Paper is organized, adequate thesis, but may not address the complexity of the question; logically ordered, adequate conclusion, contains transitions
- Little sentence variety, but adequate sentence structure; diction is adequate and correct, but may be repetitive or generic. May lapse into inappropriate voice (ex. going from 3<sup>rd</sup> person to 1<sup>st</sup>)
- May have some, but not serious, errors in conventions-- spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics  
*A 5 paper meets the assignment, but seems general and mechanical*

4-3

- Contains some supporting evidence, but is weak, paraphrased, vague, or inaccurate.
- Analysis and commentary are weak, misguided, and/or inaccurate and unclear. Response paraphrase and plot summary opposed to analysis. Writing does address the topic and conveys the writer’s ideas, but is underdeveloped. Response fails to address the question adequately.
- Paper shows some sense of organization, imprecise thesis or merely a restatement of the question; ideas may drift from or are not connected to the thesis; weak conclusion; may lack transitions and topic sentences.
- Little sentence variety; sentence structure errors, generic and/or repetitive diction-- overuse or misuse of “I” and/or “you”
- Weak control over conventions--spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics  
*A 3 paper compounds the weakness of a 4: weaker writing skills, less organization, misinterpretations, inadequate development, serious omissions*

2-1

- Very little, if any, concrete detail and textual support; if present, it is unacceptably vague
- Plot summary and/or paraphrase substitute for commentary and analysis; some attempt to answer the question, but with very little clarity or coherence
- Lack of control over organization and development; may ramble; thesis is weak or nonexistent; a restatement of the question or absent altogether
- Little sentence variety; may have distracting errors in sentence structure and diction
- Weak control and distracting errors in conventions-- spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics  
*A 1 paper is unacceptably brief or incoherently long, full of mechanical errors, and/or missed the focus of the topic*

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**F A response that is no more than a reference to the task**

