

HONORS ENGLISH 9
2019 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

We would like to welcome incoming freshmen students who are taking Honors English 9 at Downey High School in the fall. Our Honors English program is challenging, rigorous, and rewarding.

Assignment 1: You will be responsible for reading and annotating the following novels by **Friday, August 16, 2019:**

- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

There will be a test on one of the novels during the first full week of school, and many of our first quarter writing assignments will be focused on these two texts, so it is important that students read and understand both books.

Students should read for enjoyment and insight, but both novels should be annotated using the suggestions below.

- Students should write at least twenty (20) thoughtful comments per book.
- Comments should spread out through the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
- We will be collecting your books; therefore, if you choose to check the book out from your local library, you must use post-it notes to mark your annotations in the text.

Assignment 2: You will be reading a third book this summer. This will be a book of your choice, so pick something fun and interesting to you from any genre! Just make sure the book follows these very basic requirements:

- Must be fiction.
- Must be at least 100 pages.
- Must be something new that you haven't read before.

You **do not** need to annotate this book of choice, but you do need to bring your novel to class and be prepared to write about it and discuss it in class on **Thursday, August 15, 2019.**

Should you have additional questions about the assignment, you can e-mail one of the Honors English 9 teachers as follows:

Mr. Bean: jabeen@dusd.net

Mrs. Crespo: kcrespo@dusd.net

Mrs. Wilmoth: kwilmoth@dusd.net

* Remember, it is summer vacation, so you may not get an immediate response!

Suggestions on How to Annotate Fiction

During reading:

- Highlight characters and characterization at the beginning, middle, and end (notice how the main character(s) change throughout the story)
- Number (1,2,3) plot or the main events
- Put a box around the setting (when and where; atmosphere and mood)
- Circle vocabulary words that you don't know. Use context clues to determine word meanings.
- Put a star next to important events
- Underline the moment of most emotional intensity (climax)

Write in the margins/write on post-it notes:

- Summarize
- Make predictions
- Formulate opinions
- Make connections
- Ask questions (clarify/connect/conclude)
- Analyze author's style (tone, language, style)
- Write reflections/reactions/comments
- Look for patterns and repetitions