

HONORS ENGLISH 9

Hackmeyer

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of following a reading program during the summer is to enrich students' experiences of literature. Each honors student is responsible for reading the works listed below and for completing the corresponding assignment prior to the beginning of the academic year. It is important to note that because Honors English 9 is a "feeder" course for AP English, the reading list contains works that are considered to be mature reading and intellectually challenging. Although no work is due until the first day of school, it is **strongly** recommended that the work be spread out throughout the summer.

Evaluation of summer work will be based on the following:

1. Book cards. **A set of book cards should be prepared for *The Grapes of Wrath*.**
2. The book cards are due **the first day of school**.
3. Objective test or essay on **each** of the works.
4. In-class writing assignments.

Suggested schedule for summer reading:

June & July: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

August: *The Tortilla Curtain*, by T.C. Boyle

Assignments for Summer Reading

I. Book cards for *The Grapes of Wrath*

Read *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Complete the assignment listed below.

Instructions for Assignment on *The Grapes of Wrath*

For *The Grapes of Wrath*, **use 5 x 8 cards**. Typed cards are encouraged, but if you do not have access to a computer, please write legibly in blue or black ink. Please note again that if your cards resemble the content from *Cliffs Notes*, *Spark Notes*, *Monarch Notes*, or any other "study aid," **you will receive a zero**. If you have researched material, please paraphrase and cite the source using *MLA* guidelines. **Try to use no more than one card for each element requested**. Label each card with the topic being requested and initial the back of each.

A. Background-Literary Period

For this card research is necessary. Identify the period of time in which the novel is set; you may find significance in the political, historical, or literary events of the era in which this book was written. You may also need to investigate the location in which the selection is set. Relate the work to the period(s). Cite the bibliographic information according to the *MLA* guidelines at the bottom of the last card in this section. The following is an example of *MLA* citation:

Author of article. Name of article. Name of source in which article is found. Volume number. Editor of source. City and state of publishing company: name of publishing company, most recent copyright date.

Helps, Sir Arthur. "Uncle Tom's Cabin." *The Library of Literary Criticism of English and American Authors*. Vol. VII. Edited by Charles Wells Moulton. Gloucester, Massachusetts: Peter Smith Publishing, 1959.

B. Setting and Mood

How does Chapter One set the mood and the setting for the story?

C. Characterization (May use two or more cards for this category.)

Choose **one** of the following categories to explain:

1. Show how the following women exhibit strength, leadership, or a moral center for other characters in the novel:

Ma Joad
Rose of Sharon
Mae
Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Wainwright
Lisbeth Sandry

-Or-

2. Explain what motivated each of the following men. Be sure to tell how realistic each one was about his "American Dream."

Uncle John
Tom Joad
Grampa
Al Joad
Connie Rivers
Jim Casy

D. Theme

What themes are established in Chapter One? Be sure to state each theme in sentence form.

E. Literary Devices

1. Language

Elicit various ways Steinbeck used language in the first 5 chapters. Give specific examples and the effects. (For example, phrases that might describe the land and/or people at war with harsh natural events.)

2. Imagery

Trace an image **pattern** throughout the entire novel (either animal or machine). Quote the references and give the page number for each. Please record between 8 to 10 references.

3. Color

Trace Steinbeck's use of color in the first 2 chapters. What might these colors represent? Give specific examples.

4. Symbolism

A. What are the similarities of the turtle and Jim Casy?

B. Find another prominent symbol and explain its purpose in furthering the story.

5. Contrast

Chapter Seven gives a good example of characterization. Explain how Steinbeck contrasts the migrants' naivete with the salesman's unscrupulousness.

6. Style

A. Explain the effectiveness and purpose of Steinbeck's use of intercalary chapters (those that do not deal with the story of the Joads specifically).

B. According to critic Peter Lisca (Lisca, Peter. *The Wide World of John Steinbeck*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1958.), Chapter Seven is written in "harsh, staccato prose." Why do you think Steinbeck may have written this chapter on selling used cars in this hectic prose?

7. Irony

List three examples of irony in the novel and briefly explain their use. Be sure to state what type of irony (verbal, situational, dramatic).