

Honors English 9  
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Room 202

**RATIONALE:** Assigned reading is designed to provide enrichment for students over the summer. Students are required to read approved selections that give them an introduction to the level of reading that will be expected for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The goal for Honors English 9 is to offer students the opportunity to appreciate and reflect on the value of reading, specific to the listed novels.

Additionally, Pre-AP students have already read *To Kill A Mocking Bird* which is why they will read Harper Lee's sequel. The novel, *Go Set A Watchman* directly connects to the main character in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Also, *Go Set A Watchman* provides a new and, somewhat disturbing, perspective on Scout and her father, Atticus. At the start of the 2016 school year, I will connect both novels with instruction and activities that integrate the two novels together.

**The written assignments will be collected and graded during week one of the school year**  
*To Kill A Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee

Thematic Focus: Civil Rights and the Loss of Innocence

Literary Devices to look for in this novel: symbolism and irony

Symbol-A setting, an object or event in a story that represents more than literal meaning

Ex: Dove- a bird (literal) that represents peace (symbolic)

Irony- The opposite of what we expect

Ex: A plumber with leaky faucets

**Students can access website for more information about literary devices**  
**@<https://youtu.be/uCMniNKxLFk>, Jed Bloom**

1. Required Assignment: research the following topics listed below: (5-10 facts each)
  - Blue jays
  - Mocking birds
  - Geraniums
2. Then, based on your research, list similarities and/ or dissimilarities between the two birds
3. From your factual research, write an article for the *National Audubon Society* that demonstrates support for the preservation of either Blues jays or Mocking birds; attach a picture/visual of the bird to your article  
Helpful Hint: who, what, when, where, why and how can provide direction in journalistic writing (the article should be no less than 12 sentences and no more than 20)
4. "Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them" (Lee, Ch.31, 321).

**Assignment:** Adopt a pair of shoes that you can wear for a short period of time (30-60 minutes). Write a one page, double spaced reflection that demonstrates how those shoes made you feel. *For example, I have worn my husband's shoes outside to save me from walking to my closet. The feeling that I have in doing this for convenience is an awkward one; hence, his shoes are too big.*

- Describe the shoes and who they belong to in your household
- Where did you wear the shoes and how did they feel different from your shoes?
- Give an example that describes how the shoes made you feel (In wearing my husband's shoes, my example would be that I walked to the mailbox and the neighbors were staring at me...awkward!)
- Did you learn anything about the owner of your borrowed shoes? If so, what was it?
- **HAVE FUN WITH THIS WRITING AS IT CAN BE HUMOROUS...SATIRE IS WELCOMED!**

*Go Set A Watchman* by Harper Lee

Thematic Focus: Trust and Truth

Literary Device: Allusion

Allusion-A reference to a person, an event or a place

Ex: The quote below is an allusion used in the novel!

"For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth. ... And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground." —Isaiah 21:6-9

1. Required Assignment- research the following topics listed below: (5-10 facts each)
  - Babylon
  - Rosa Parks or any comparable figure during the Civil Rights Movement
  - Brown vs. The Board of Education
2. Then, based on your research, list what is similar or dissimilar between your two choices
3. From your research, write an editorial that supports Civil Rights and show the conviction of courage by standing up for equality in your writing; attach a picture/visual to your article (YOU are the minority group)
 

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**The second novel can be a book of your choice; there is not an assignment**