

Dear Future CHAPster,

As your sophomore year is quickly winding down, I am sure you're thinking about—and looking forward to—summer break. Believe me, I am, too! ☺

At the same time, I'm excited for next year, especially the opportunity to work with you as we examine our country's cultural heritage through various lenses, one of which will be literature. To help prepare you for the myriad texts we will be reading, discussing, and writing about next year (both fiction and nonfiction), you will complete a summer reading assignment. This assignment will be due by the end of the first week of school and is broken down as follows:

1. Choose one of the novels from the attached reading list to read over the summer.
2. Complete the double-entry journal (1 entry per chapter) by downloading the journal template onto your own tablet or computer and filling it in as you read the novel. **I expect you to mix up the types of entries;** for example, if the novel has 15 chapters and you make 13 text-to-text self entries, your grade will reflect this. The template may currently be found on the high school's home page under the summer reading resources menu. That link is: <http://quakersread.weebly.com/>
3. Your journal must be saved electronically so that you can upload it to Turnitin.com when we return to school in August.
4. Based on **one** text-to-world connection in your journal, find and read a related article from one of the current events magazines on the attached reading list. For clarification, look at my text-to-world entry example on the last page of this packet. To complete #5, I would search for an article about either natural disasters and/or the world's reaction to them (like the water drive in my example).
5. Write a one-page explanation of how the text-to-world quote helped you understand the novel better (3-5 sentences), as well as a brief summary of the news article (5-7 sentences), including the source (online news magazine name, URL, and name of author, if given). Again, this is a **one-page** Word document. As Mark Twain once said, "Brevity is the soul of wit." This document must also be saved electronically so that you can upload it to Turnitin.com as well.

Summer reading is an important part of the Honors English experience; current research indicates that summer reading programs “enhance and sustain student literacy behaviors over the break...” (www.NCTE.org, 4/29/14). The required summer reading is intended to help keep your reading skills sharp and further develop your reading practices.

Please read the sample journal entries that are attached as they may help guide you through your own journaling process. If you have any questions from now until the end of summer break, contact me via email at cfarris@plainfield.k12.in.us.

Happy reading!

Ms. Farris

CHAP Summer Reading List

Novels

The Grapes of Wrath
The Color Purple
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Sister Carrie
As I Lay Dying

John Steinbeck
Alice Walker
Mark Twain
Theodore Dreiser
William Faulkner

Current Events Magazines

The Week
Time Magazine
The New York Times
Upfront Magazine
CNN Magazine
A link to other credible news mags

www.theweek.com
www.time.com
www.nytimes.com
www.upfront.scholastic.com
www.cnn.com
<http://www.csun.edu/~hcedu013/cevents.html>

Note to Parents: *We want to ensure that your student is reading a text that is appropriate as determined by your standards as well as our own. For this reason, we have provided choice in the novel selections. These novels are often literary award winners and some are also on the AP Literature list of recommended readings. If you have concerns, we encourage you to look over the material to make sure that it is appropriate for your student to read his or her selected book. Consider visiting <http://www.commonsensemedia.org> to see thoughts from both parents and students for many of the novels.

Three Types of Connections to Make in Your Double Entry Journal

- **Text to Self:** a connection between the text and your own life experience
- **Text to Text:** a connection between the text and another story or text you have previously read
- **Text to World:** a connection between the text and something that is occurring or has occurred in the world

Examples for Double-Entry Journal

Quote from text	Connection
<p>“Doodle was about the craziest brother a boy ever had. Doodle was born when I was seven and was, from the start, a disappointment. He seemed all head, with a tiny body that was red and shriveled like an old man's. Everybody thought he was going to die.</p> <p>Daddy had the carpenter build a little coffin, and when he was three months old, Mama and Daddy named him William Armstrong. Such a name sounds good only on a tombstone.”</p>	<p>(Text to Self)</p> <p>How Doodle came into the world and how his family initially reacted reminds me of when my cousin Jeff was born. He was premature; his heart and lungs were not fully developed, and he had to be in an incubator with all sorts of tubes and wires connected to him for the first seven weeks of his life. I remember my mom crying over the phone when talking to my aunt the day Jeff was born. I remember hushed conversations between my parents and aunts and uncles. I remember thinking that he was probably never going to come out of the hospital. Thankfully, I was wrong.</p>
<p>“There is within me (and with sadness I have watched it in others) a knot of cruelty borne by the stream of love, much as our blood sometimes bears the seed of our destruction, and at times I was mean to Doodle.”</p>	<p>(Text to Text)</p> <p>This passage echoes parts of <i>A Separate Peace</i>, a novel I read last year. Gene and Finny, the two main characters, are best friends while attending a boarding school in the East near the end of WWII. They complement one another: Gene is smart, Finny is athletic. They both share the same sense of humor and values, and they're both leaders at school. They love each other like brothers. But deep down inside, Gene is very jealous of Finny; and some dark, twisted part of him wants to see Finny fail. In a moment of inexplicable envy, Gene causes Finny to fall from a tree and break his leg. Although he meant to make Finny fall, at the time Gene didn't understand why; and it wasn't until he had carried his guilt with him well into his</p>

	adulthood that he realized he was a teenager who was overwhelmed by conflicting emotions when he caused the accident.
“Go bring me the bird book,’ said Daddy. I ran into the house and brought back the bird book. As we watched, Daddy thumbed through its pages. ‘It’s a scarlet ibis,’ he said, pointing to a picture. ‘It lives in the tropics—South America to Florida. A storm must have brought it here.’”	<p>(Text to World)</p> <p>Even though this passage is literally about the ibis, the bird is a symbol for Doodle. Just as the tropical bird is swept away from its habitat by a powerful storm, Doodle is forcefully displaced from his “natural” environment by his brother’s “storm” of pride. I can relate this to a recent natural disaster. In January of this year, almost 40,000 Madagascans were displaced from their homes because of a horrific tropical storm that caused powerful flooding and widespread water pollution. One of my classmates has relatives in Madagascar, and she spearheaded fundraising activities at school to buy bottled water to send through the local Red Cross. Although the country continues to rebuild communities today, the clean water our school was able to send made a difference for hundreds of displaced families.</p>