

English Honors II Summer Reading Assignment

St. Bernard High School is committed to its belief in the importance of reading in the intellectual development of the student. For this reason, we supplement the regular English curricula with required summer reading. All students must have the following assignment completed for the first day of school. Assignments are to be submitted to your English teacher for grading. This will be an important part of your first semester's grade. We hope that you will enjoy and be challenged by the books you read. Your English teacher looks forward to reading your journals and children's book.

You must read ***A Separate Peace*** by John Knowles, ***The Joy Luck Club*** by Amy Tan **AND** ***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Children's Book for *A Separate Peace*

Students must create a children's book for the novel explaining the narrator's remembrance of his life at school and how the novel is related to Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and *In Our Time*. The book must meet the following requirements:

- A cover page with a proper MLA heading
- Each page will have 3-4 sentences explaining the narrator's remembrance of his life at school in language that can be understood by a child. Spelling and grammar count.
- Each page must have an illustration to accompany the writing.
- The concept of time must be addressed at some point in your book.

Summer Reading Journal for *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Hobbit*

- The journals are to be word processed (double-spaced, 12 point font, with justified margins)
- The journals must include a artistic cover
- Answer all of the questions listed below for each book
- Cite any resources you use to help answer the questions below
- Create one booklet each of your summer reading projects (you may choose whether or not to put your work in a report folder)
- The summer assignment is due on the first day of classes

Journal Questions

Write the answers to each of the following questions in your journal. Answers to each question should be a minimum of 100 words and should not exceed 300 words.

1. Who is the main character in each book? What qualities does the character have that you relate to or admire? Why?
2. What is the general setting (place, time) for each book? How does the general setting influence what happens in the book? Discuss the setting for any single episode in the book and how that setting is appropriate for the action taking place.
3. What forces does the main character struggle against in each book? Does he/she win or lose this struggle?
4. What theme or truth about life is expressed in each book? How can you apply this theme to your own life?

Additionally, be prepared for a test on each book during the first two weeks of classes. Students must complete the summer assignments in order to take the tests.

Please be aware that in your "AP Contract" it states: "I am aware that AP and Honors courses will require SUMMMER HOMEWORK, due the first day of school, which will be included in my grade. Failure to complete Summer Homework may result in my removal from the class."