

June 2019

Dear Student,

You have signed up for Honors 8 English Language Arts, a rigorous academic course for students with high aptitude for reading and writing. The pre-requisites for this class are a solid **A or B in 7th grade literacy**. This course moves at a **fast pace**; we do all the required work of English Language Arts 8, **in addition** to advanced study of literature. It requires a willingness to do more challenging work, a commitment to do **homework**, and the ability to read and write at or above the 8th grade level.

Each quarter has a different literature focus to develop reading and analysis strategies for challenging literature, to improve critical thinking and discussion skills, and to prepare you to be confident and skillful readers of difficult text. Be prepared: *you will struggle with and be challenged by the critical thinking and literature in this class.*

In order for our team to see where you are as a reader and writer, I am asking you to take the time to do the following summer reading assignment. **This assignment is due ON THE FIRST DAY of class, Monday, August 12, 2019.** There are two parts to this assignment, so read carefully!

Assignment #1: Choose a novel that you would like to read and READ IT! No assignment attached, just be prepared to discuss the following on the FIRST day of class: 1) *Why did you like this particular book? Why is reading important to you?* 2) *What benefits do you get from being an avid reader of text?*

Assignment #2: Choose ONE novel from the following list and answer ALL of the following questions in paragraph format: (You may type or neatly handwrite this assignment, **but typing is preferred**)

Please choose from the following novels for assignment #2:

<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowery
<i>1984</i>	George Orwell
<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins
<i>Matched</i>	<i>Ally Condie</i>
<i>Gone</i>	<i>Michael Grant</i>
<i>Divergent</i>	<i>Veronica Roth</i>
<i>The Maze Runner</i>	<i>James Dashner</i>
<i>Unwind</i>	<i>Neal Schusterman</i>

After you have read your novel for assignment #2, please answer the questions below. For questions that require direct evidence, please use correct MLA citation (check <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/> for help)

- a. What is the main problem in the novel that the protagonist is trying to change?
- b. What is the catalyst (push) for this change?
- c. How is the government or society making life *better or worse* for the protagonist, the supporting characters, and/or the society as a whole? How do you know?

Make a claim about the government or society in your novel and support it with at least (2) pieces of direct evidence from the text. Please MLA cite this evidence AND warrant or explain **HOW** the evidence you chose supports your claim. Be sure to include ***why this matters*** in your warrant.

- d. What is one major thematic idea or statement that the author trying to put forward in writing this novel? Please write out this thematic idea or statement AND list (2) pieces of evidence from the novel that prove this thematic idea or statement is correct.

If you have questions about the assignment, please email us at elise.prinster@d51schools.org. or ruth.mckee@d51schools.org. We will begin checking school email **Tuesday August 6, 2019**.

Have a great summer! We look forward to meeting all of you in August!

Elise Prinster & Ruth McKee-Honors 8 English Language Arts, Fruita 8/9 School