

Honors Communications 11 – Summer Reading

Dear Honors Communications 11 Students:

Welcome to Honors Communications 11. Even though I won't be seeing you (that's a collective "you") until the second half of the year, you will still complete the following assignments. Consider it an attempt to put the "summer" back in summer reading. Plus, you'll have enough to occupy your time during the first semester. This course asks you utilize your higher order thinking skills in regards to literature, its devices, and its connections to your lives. Refining this process will add another layer to your toolbox of reading, writing, and thinking skills. In addition, you will take important steps toward preparation for the AP English Literature and Composition exam.

I say the following to nearly all of my classes, or something similar, to nearly all of my classes, but it has a truth that continues to resonate. People always want to know what they can do to improve their performance on the AP test, the SAT, the ACT, or the AP course. You can purchase test prep books, try your hand at rote memorization, or take special courses (all of which have their merits and occasional value), but the most important thing you can do is BECOME a reader. Read, read, read. Find something that you like and challenges you, locate a comfortable spot, turn off the television, and relax with something to read.

Part I: Required Reading

1. Into the Wild – Krakauer
2. Life of Pi – Martel

Part II: Responding: You will do one of the following for *Life of Pi* and one of the following for *Into the Wild*. But you will not repeat assignments. For example, if you choose "a" for Life of Pi, you will do "b" for Into the Wild. Got it?

- a) Attend and participate in two book club meetings for a selection.
- b) Participate in an on-line discussion board for a selection.

Book Club Meetings – Meeting in the FHS library, we will take part in an active discussion of the novel. Your insights and reflections will be evaluated through both verbal and written methods. Each meeting will last approximately 2.0 to 2.5 hours. You will need to bring the following:

- the novel being discussed
- snacks (of course, food is the key to all great ideas)
- a myriad of prerecorded (actually written down) thinking in the form of **comments, questions, and thoughts**

If you can not make the following dates, you will need to utilize the other option.

Novel	Dates and Times
<u>Into the Wild</u>	• 6.28.07 (Thursday) 10:30-1:00ish
<u>Life of Pi</u>	• 7.26.07 (Thursday) 10:30-1:00ish

On-line Discussion: This format allows you to partake in discussions with your peers and me regarding the book you are reading. Most of us are familiar with on-line discussions, but there are a few issues to clarify for this environment.

- First of all, you are being graded by your responses. Your grammar and usage do not have to be perfect, but you will not use emoticons or abbreviations common to email or instant messaging. I do, however, want you to be candid, thoughtful, and funny whenever appropriate.
- Secondly, it is important that your responses show that you have read and thought about the book. All of your responses will be graded using the rubric below, so shoot for the “Exemplary” category with every entry. Keys to that category are thoughtful reflections, specific examples, and reactions to what I/others have posted.
- You must participate at least **eight to ten** times per novel.

Access the discussion by following these steps:

- 1) go to the school district’s home page - <http://www.fairviewschools.org>
- 2) on the left side of the page, click on “Libraries”
- 3) on the left side of the page, scroll down to “Summer Reading” and click on “FHS”
- 4) find and click on “On-Line Discussion” on the Honors Communications 11 link
- 5) at nicenet, go to the right hand side of the page under “New Users Start Here” and click on “Join a Class” under the “Students” heading
- 6) our class key is **ZZ00850HZ2**
- 7) your username ***must be your school network login (! will only grade the entries from those using the school network login)***; the password is your choice (remember it!)
- 8) click on “Join the Class”
- 9) finish registration – this will ask you to log into the Internet Classroom Assistant (reenter Username and Password)
- 10) once in the ICA, click on “View Topics” under “Conferencing” and follow the instructions and enjoy
- 11) use “reply” when you respond; view all replies so you can follow the discussions; I’ll do the posting

Your responses will be graded using this rubric. Yes, it looks like the journal rubric (there is a reason for that).

Topics	Stage 1 Developing (0-2 points)	Stage 2 Quality (3-4 points)	Stage 3 Exemplary (5 points)
Personal Reactions to the text (characters, literary devices, etc.) and Its Elements	Provides a reaction without an explanation; reactions are superficial, mere summaries, or vague.	Reactions are supported by examples from the text but lack insightful reflection. Room for improvement.	Multiple reasons are given for reactions and each is supported by details/examples from the text. Evidence of reflection and insight.
Reactions/Reflections on the Author’s Style or Voice in Writing	Entry lacks reflection or is not tied back to the text with examples.	An opinion is expressed, but it lacks development or ties back to the text. Be more specific!	The author’s writing is discussed in great detail with specific examples. This style is compared to other works with thoughtful reasoning, explanations, and examples.
Personal Reflections About the Reading	Attempted to reflect, but reflections lack detail.	Some reflections are made with support, but more reflection/depth would enhance the responses.	Reflections are discussed with depth and detail. They show a deliberate effort to push the student’s boundaries of reading/knowledge and reflection.
Overall Impression	Little or no serious effort	An honestly decent effort, but you could provide more examples, explanations, or reflections.	You have thoroughly explained your thoughts with adequate references to the text, keen reflection regarding the work as a whole, and justified you opinion.

Due Dates: All of your entries for each novel must be posted by the following dates:

- Into the Wild – 6.28.07 (Thursday)
- Life of Pi – 7.26.07 (Thursday)