

Honors English 9 Summer Reading Assignment

In preparation for the beginning of the school year, you must complete a series of summer reading assignments, as well as some related-reading activities. These assignments are required of all Honors freshmen. **Please follow directions carefully.** Due dates are posted in the box on the last page.

You will need to purchase the following two books:

1. *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
2. *Good Poems for Hard Times* published by Penguin Books

These are available at local bookstores (or they can be purchased on-line).

Summer Reading Novel

- 1) For *Ethan Frome*, you will complete a pre-reading journal **before beginning the novel (see below)**.
- 2) Then, as you read the novel, collect the information that is required (notes) and record it, according to the directions below, on loose-leaf paper that can be kept in a 3-ring binder (which will be a required class material). **The pre-reading journal should be typed. The “while you read” can be typed or neatly hand-written.** Be prepared for an objective test over *Ethan Frome* (I would suggest reading the novel later in the summer, or reading it twice, so that you remember it enough to do well on a test, as well as participate in discussions, in late August/early September).

Pre-Reading Journal – Type please

1. Look up the word illusion and record two definitions. Now define illusion in your own words.

When do you think you have lived in an illusion rather than reality, or, give an example of when someone you care about has chosen to live more in an illusion than reality. Why do you think you, or someone you care about, or people in general, choose to live in illusions? (Please type your response. It should be in well-written paragraph(s) form, double spaced, and be 300 words or more in length).

While You Read – Type or neatly write out by hand

1. Record examples, **with page numbers**, of times in the novel when
 - Ethan does what he believes is right.
 - Ethan struggles with doing what he believes is right or moral, versus doing what he believes will make him happy.
 - Communication between two characters is based more on what one character believes is the right thing to say or based on what one character believes the other character wants to hear, rather than what is absolutely true or honest.
 - A character or characters perpetuate living in an illusion instead of reality.

NOTE #1: (please list your examples for the above bulleted categories in a way which indicates which category the example goes under)

NOTE #2: The more information you record, the better! You may organize your information in any form you wish... a chart, paragraphs, bulleted list, etc. This information will help you with a future first quarter writing assignment.

Summer Reading – Poetry

Note: Your reflections on the poetry will be collected; therefore, please **type** these responses, 11 pt or 12 pt font, **double spaced**, 1" margins.

Do not be deceived! *Good Poems for Hard Times* is not a collection of depressing poems; quite the opposite, it is a collections of poems meant to inspire and renew the spirit. You are required to read the poems listed below, and to complete the related activities, but perhaps you will find yourself reading even more than is required.... as there is a vast supply of meaningful and inspirational poems in this small yellow book. The book will be used throughout the school year, so please purchase it and keep it! A few of the poems require no written work.

REQUIRED READING:

1. Pre-reading journal – Before you read, make a list (it does not have to be in paragraph form) of all the things you hate or fear about poetry. If you love poetry, make a list of all that you love about it! Don't worry, you won't hurt my feelings either way!
2. The Introduction, pages xv – xxiii
 - Reflect upon your pre-reading list/journal. Has this introduction changed your opinion at all? Why or why not? Jot down your reflections on the bottom of the pre-reading journal page.
3. "Happiness" by Raymond Carver, page 4
 - Type a 200 or more word response journal to the poem. What does the poem say or mean to you? What, in fact, is the author trying to say about happiness, and that which inspires it?
4. "Starting the Subaru at Five Below" by Stuart Kestenbaum, page 15 (no additional work at this time)
5. "Unharvested" by Robert Frost, page 26
 - In a 150 – 200 word, typed response journal, what do you think is Frost's message, paying particular attention to the poem's last four lines?
6. "you can take it with you" by Josephine Jacobsen, page 38 (no additional work at this time)
7. "Things" by Lisel Mueller, page 104
 - Define personification
8. "the lesson of the moth" by Don Marquis, page 111
 - In a 200 word or more response journal, discuss how this poem seems almost non-poetry like in form and subject. Do you like Marquis' unconventional style? Do you agree or disagree with the thought that
*it is better to be happy
for a moment
and be burned up with beauty
Than to live a long time
and be bored all the while*
9. "After School on Ordinary Days" by Maria Mazziotti Gillan, page 135
 - Write an original poem, 10 lines or longer, which reflects upon an after school memory that you have and perhaps cherish, much like Maria Mazziotti Gillan cherishes her thoughts of Chocolate milk, cookies, and the radio. This can be hand written or typed.

Cont. on next page

10. "Driving to Town Late to Mail a Letter" by Robert Bly, page 253

- Type a 200 word or more journal entry that reflects upon a moment in time where you find yourself most at peace, content in your own privacy/aloneness. Describe/explain the situation, etc.

Work for *Ethan Frome* is due on our 2nd class meeting.

Assignments related to the poetry readings are not due until mid-September. Date to be announced when we begin school. See ** below!

****Please be aware that putting off assignments could result in heavy homework loads when additional nightly homework is assigned.**