

Welcome to our "Community of Readers" at Lincoln High School. We believe that reading not only educates the mind but also uplifts the spirit. Summer reading is also an opportunity to prepare in advance for the themes, concepts, and terms that we will explore together in English IV. Our hope is that everyone at Lincoln, across all grades and disciplines, will share the experience of enjoying literature and discovering themselves in a book.

English IV General: Students will select any one of the four selections and complete the assignment for that book.

English IV Honors: Students will select one of the first two books and one of the second two books and complete the assignments for those books.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE NEATLY TYPED AND SAVED ELECTRONICALLY ON A PERSONAL COMPUTER OR FLASH DRIVE.

BOOK 1: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon

***** Before You Read *****

The very first thing that you will want to do is to spend some time on-line, looking up *autism* and a related cognitive condition, *Asperger's Syndrome*, on the web. Knowing something about these conditions will enable you to appreciate Christopher's "take" on life and to understand more fully how and why he sees things the way he does. Find an article related to autism or Asperger's Syndrome and summarize the article.

***** While You Read *** Answer these questions about the book as you progress through the story.**

1. Given Christopher's autism, what makes him unique in the way he perceives the world and interacts with others?
2. What are Christopher's talents and skills?
3. Why do you think the author includes the visual elements (charts, graphs, drawings, etc.)?
4. What people provide a positive influence for Christopher?
5. Considering all Christopher has been through, how do you think he will function as an adult?

***** After You Read *****

As a result of his encounter with the dog, Christopher leaves the places, people, and routines with which he is familiar. He has to learn to deal with challenges and uncomfortable situations, not unlike the experiences you will have when you leave home to attend college. Write a well crafted essay that clearly and concisely compares one of Christopher's experiences from the novel and connect it to your own hopes and fears as you look forward to college at the end of your senior year.

BOOK 2: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie

***** Before You Read *****

Hercule Poirot is a detective who solves crimes without the benefit of modern day CSI technology but rather depending on his logic and observation skills. Find an article related to crime investigation and summarize the article.

***** While You Read *** Answer these questions about the book as you progress through the story.**

1. Given the story is told in first person narration, what does Dr. Sheppard tell the reader about himself?
2. What clues does Christie plant in the novel that hints at the identity of the true murderer?
3. Identify some comic interludes that Christie places throughout the novel. What are their effects?
4. Beginning in Chapter 5, make timeline of events & clues that you see for each character between 9:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. that evening that could be used for each character's alibi. The characters to be included are: Ackroyd, Sheppard, Raymond, Parker, Blunt, Miss Flora, Mrs. Ackroyd, Ralph, Miss Russell and Ursula Bourne
5. Why did Poirot offer the murderer a way out at the end? What does that tell us about Poirot's character?

***** After You Read *****

Write a well crafted essay that clearly and concisely discusses the surprise ending of the story. What is your opinion about the author's twist of the conventional use of the narrator as the "mouthpiece" for truth? What effect does this have on the believability of the story?

BOOK 3: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

*** **Before You Read** ***

Narrowly escaping the destruction of the earth to make way for an intergalactic freeway, hitchhikers Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect go on a crazy journey across time and space. Find an article related to space travel and summarize the article.

~~or~~

BOOK 4: *Grendel* by John Gardner

*** **Before You Read** ***

Grendel is split into twelve chapters, each linked with one month of the year and one astrological sign. Find an article related to astrology and summarize the article.

*** **While You Read** *** Create this log about the book as you progress through the story.

For either choice, complete a reading log of at least **20** entries citing selected passages that cover the text's entirety.

Example of Reading Log entries

The Great Santini
by Pat Conroy

Sally Jones: Reading Log
8/5/10

PG/LINE	CH	WHAT THE BOOK SAYS...	WHAT I SAY...
35	3	"I'll have plenty of time to decide whether to go into the Corps or not when I'm in college, Dad."	I find it really sad that, for his whole life, Ben's father has told him how his future will be. He seems to have no choice in the matter. If I were Ben I would feel really frustrated and like I had no choice over what I planned to do with my life. Ben's father seems really unfair.
41	4	"He longed for a sense of place, of belonging, and of permanence. He wanted to live in one house, grow old in one neighborhood, and wanted friends whose faces did not change yearly."	I can't imagine what it must have been like to move every single year. I lived in the same house my entire life—from the time I started kindergarten to the time I graduated from high school. To have to grow accustomed to new places, new rules, and to make new friends every year would be really tough.

*** **After You Read** ***

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Write a well crafted essay that clearly and concisely discusses how this book takes a satirical look at the absurdities of the real world and the conventions of science fiction.

~~or~~

Grendel by John Gardner

Write a well crafted essay that clearly and concisely discusses how much (if any) of Grendel's behavior throughout the novel is determined by his own conscious choice of free will or is it a question of instinct and inherent nature.