

Summer Reading Overview

- You will be reading one book if you are in English III General and two books if you are in American Literature Honors (Virtual).
- The books may be checked out from the public library and are available online and in most bookstores.
- Both American Literature Honors and General will be writing an essay.
- All assignments are required to be typed. You will be turning these assignments in ONLINE when you return to school in the fall.

Book for both American Literature Honors and English III General:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

http://www.amazon.com/Mice-Men-Steinbeck-Centennial-Edition/dp/0142000671/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1337020963&sr=1-1

Additional book for Honors:

The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan

http://www.amazon.com/The-Worst-Hard-Time-Survived/dp/0618773479/ref=tmm_pap_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1337614902&sr=1-1

Part I (to be completed by everyone):

Below is a sample SAT essay prompt. Read the prompt and write an essay answering the question. Your essay should be at least 300 words, typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font. Make sure that you fully understand the quote and the instructions before you write the essay. Look up any words you do not understand.

Prompt:

"That which we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only which gives everything its value."

-- Thomas Paine

Assignment:

Do we value only what we struggle for? Plan your response, and then write an essay to explain your views on this issue. Be sure to support your position with specific points and examples. (You may use personal examples or examples from your reading, observations, or, knowledge of subjects such as history, literature, science.)

Part II: (to be completed by everyone):

Read John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and type answers to the following questions in complete sentences (about one paragraph per question, minimum 100 words per paragraph).

1. How does the setting of *Of Mice and Men* influence the book's thematic development? In answering, consider the connection between the novel's setting and the characters' jobs. Also, how does Steinbeck signal the importance of setting in his choice of place names?
2. Consider the title of the novel; it is an allusion to a Robert Burns poem. What do the poem and the novel have in common? Why might Steinbeck have named this book after that poem?
3. There are great examples of foreshadowing in this novel. Find at least three examples and explain how they function as foreshadowing.
4. *Of Mice and Men* has a controversial history. It has been repeatedly banned by school boards. Why might this book have been banned? Is such an action justified?

Part III (Only the American Literature Honors students need to complete this portion of the summer reading):

Read *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. What events in our history has Egan chronicled? Why were they important? Go to this link to see some suggested discussion topics for literature circles:

<http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/14-non-fiction/1181-worst-hard-time-egan?start=3>

Answer AT LEAST three questions from this list in complete sentences, minimum 100 words per question (typed).