

## English III General/ Honors

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 III. 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 III General:** Students will select one of the four selections and complete the assignment for that book.

**English III 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 Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier

#### **\*\*\* Before You Read \*\*\***

The first thing that you will want to do is to spend some time on-line, looking up information about the effects of hazing in high schools. Knowing something about topic will help you understand the struggles facing the main character of the novel. Find an article related to hazing in high schools and summarize the article.

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

1. Describe the function of the Vigils and the responsibilities of Carter, Archie, and Obie within that group.
2. Although both are bullies, how does Emile Janza differ from Archie Costello?
3. Make a list of the acts of violence against Jerry that were ordered and/or condoned by the Vigils in an effort to make him sell the candy.
4. At what moment does Jerry realize that he has been changed by the violence of his ordeal at Trinity?
5. Considering all Jerry has been through, how do you think he will function as an adult?

#### **\*\*\* After You Read \*\*\***

When Jerry realizes that his locker has been vandalized, the Cormier notes: "For some reason, he felt ashamed." The Goober and Brother Eugene suffer similar reactions to the psychological violence inflicted on them. What do you think it is about the nature of violence that makes its victims feel shame and humiliation as opposed to other emotions? Write a well written response of 250 words that clearly and concisely answers the question.

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### **BOOK 2:** *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

#### **\*\*\* Before You Read \*\*\***

The first thing that you will want to do is to spend some time on-line, looking up information about the life of the itinerant worker. Knowing something about these conditions will enable you to appreciate the lifestyle that Lenny and George are forced to endure. Find an article related to itinerant workers and summarize the article.

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

1. George bursts into a long speech about what he could do if he were alone. What could he do and why do you think he doesn't follow through?
2. What is the role of Curley in the novel?
3. Identify some comic interludes that Steinbeck places throughout the novel. What are their effects?
4. When told of the possibility of having land of his own, Crooks says, "Nobody gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land. It's just in their head." How is this belief confirmed after his encounter with Curley's wife in Ch. 4?
5. Who is the only one who really understands why George did what he did at the end of the novel?

#### **\*\*\* After You Read \*\*\***

The title of the novel comes from a poem by the Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759 - 96):

The best laid schemes *o' mice and men*  
Gang aft agley [*often go wrong*]  
And leave us nought but grief and pain  
For promised joy!

Write a well written response of 250 words that clearly and concisely which discusses why the title is appropriate.

(over)

**BOOK 3:** *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac

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

A largely autobiographical work based on the spontaneous road trips of Kerouac and his friends across mid-century America, *On the Road* is often considered a defining work of the postwar Beat Generation that was inspired by jazz, poetry, and drug experiences. Find an article dealing with the Beat Generation and summarize the article.

~~or~~

**BOOK 4:** *My Antonia* by Willa Cather

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

*My Antonia* is split into five books, each linked with intertwined stages of the lives of Antonia Shimerda and Jim Burden. Find an article related to the immigrants to America in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century 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  
8/5/11

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** \*\*\*

*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac

The opening lines of the novel suggest that Sal is in search of spiritual and emotional healing and salvation. Write a well-crafted essay that clearly and concisely discusses whether or not he is successful in this quest by the end of the novel.

~~or~~

*My Antonia* by Willa Cather

Cather chose a first-person narrator because she felt that novels depicting deep emotion, such as *My Antonia*, were most effectively narrated by a character in the story. Write a well-crafted essay that clearly and concisely discusses how the novel would change if it had continued to be told by the unnamed omniscient third person narrator who began the introduction.