June 7, 2017

Dear Sophomore Honors English Student,

Welcome to Honors World Literature! Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, we will focus on the themes and ideas presented in several well-known literary texts, including *Antigone, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The House on Mango Street.* We will work on broadening your literary landscape through our study of various cultures as they are presented in literature from around the world. In order to prepare for that work, you must complete the following summer reading assignments. Please actively read:

- *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez (2010)
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster (2014)

During the first few weeks of school, we will be discussing these texts in great depth, so it is critical that you read these texts thoughtfully and actively. I recommend that you purchase your own copy of each book which will make reading actively much easier; annotate the texts as you read: mark significant passages, record questions you have, define unknown words, and consider the author's purpose in writing each text. If you do not purchase your own copy of each book, you should still complete the annotation exercise by using post-it notes or a notebook/reading journal. See the handout below for more annotation strategies.

By the first day of school, you must also complete the summer reading assignment located on our class wiki: http://obriensophomorehonors.wikispaces.com (the assignment is located on the bottom of the wiki's home page). When we return to school in the fall, you should bring these texts and the notes you took to class with you; we will make extensive use of these materials during Quarter 1.

In addition to the above-mentioned summer reading work, you should also read your "I Love This Book" text (refer to The Morgan School website for your assigned book). In the meantime, enjoy your summer vacation. Please email me if you have any other questions or concerns about the class. I look forward to meeting you all next year!

Sincerely,

Heather O'Brien

Mrs. Heather O'Brien
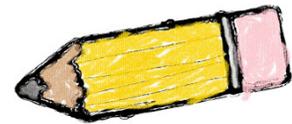
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<u>**How to Annotate a Text**</u>

Annotation is a key component of CLOSE READING. Since you will annotate texts all year, we need to develop a system that works for you, within the following guidelines. Effective annotating is both economical and consistent. Use any combination of the following:

- Make brief comments in the margins. Use any blank space available.
- Make brief comments between or within lines of text. Do not be afraid to mark within the text itself . . . in fact, you must!
- Circle or box words that stand out to you, words you believe are significant to the text.
- Connect words, phrases, ideas with lines or arrows.
- Underline – **CAUTION:** Use this method sparingly. Underline only a few words. ALWAYS COMBINE this method with another method, such as "comment." Never underline an entire passage; if you wish to mark an entire passage, use brackets.
- Highlight – **CAUTION:** Don't highlight everything.

When COMMENTING on the text, I want to see evidence of the following:

- Have a conversation with the text: talk back to it.
- Ask questions (essential to active reading)
- Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- Comment on lines and/or quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Summarize key events.
- Make predictions.
- Make inferences.
- Connect ideas to each other OR to other texts.
- Note if you have an epiphany, an "A-HA!" moment.
- Note anything you'd like to discuss or have difficulty understanding.
- Note how the author uses language: word choice, sentence structure, point-of-view, repetition (words, actions, events), irony, allusions, figures of speech, tone/mood, imagery, theme(s), setting, symbols, etc.

THE MOST COMMON COMPLAINT ABOUT ANNOTATING TEXT IS THAT IT SLOWS DOWN YOUR READING . . .

YES! It does. *That's the point.* If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter without annotating, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway.

Whatever methods you choose to implement from above, **make your thinking VISIBLE**.