



**Chapel Hill High School
Honors Ninth Grade Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment**

Dear Students and Parents:

Congratulations on qualifying for an Honors English course for the next school year. We are communicating with you in an attempt to be sure all students and their parents/guardians are aware of the higher expectations for these classes. All Honors courses in the Douglas County School System are challenging yet rewarding, with a focus on fostering students who will be ready to meet the challenges of AP and college-level courses. Honors courses are rigorous, for they are meant to prepare students for AP English courses, but be advised that honors courses do not offer students the possibility of earning college credit. When students enroll in an Honors or AP English course, they will be required to participate in summer reading. The texts that are assigned are considered a part of the curriculum. They are texts of recognized literary merit. Students will be assessed over their summer reading within the first two weeks of school and the summer reading will count: 5% for freshmen and 10% for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Students enrolled in these classes will be expected to read the assigned texts and complete any related assignments. Summer reading is not optional.

For Honors Ninth Grade Literature and Composition at CHHS, you are **required** to read George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

Animal Farm: *Animal Farm* is a story with a political purpose. In Russell Baker's preface to the book, he states that "Orwell left us a lesson about the human contribution to the political terror that will always be as up-to-date as next year's election." **As you read the book, consider what the novel says about the political world, yesterday and today. What does Orwell want to caution us about? What role do people play in government and the evolution of powerful leaders? To what extent does Orwell's cautionary message apply to American politics and daily life today?**

Assignment: Attached you will find instructions for a project that you will complete as you are reading *Animal Farm*. The goal of this assignment is to ensure that you are comfortable with the basic vocabulary that we will use to analyze literature throughout the course. Additionally, you will practice finding examples of literary devices, explaining the importance of various elements of literature, and citing evidence from a literary text.

Finally, please be advised that we will be working with the content from this assignment throughout our first two units. Therefore, in the first few weeks of school, you will be required to apply the ideas, vocabulary, and concepts from the summer reading assignment to what we will be working on in class. It is imperative that you are diligent in completing this assignment so that you don't fall behind!

Please let us know if you have any questions. The English department can be reached through CHHS at (770) 651-6200. You may also email Ms. Walker at taiwana.walker@dcssga.org.

Have a great summer and happy reading!



Summer Reading Project

Guidelines:

- This project will be worth 5% of your final grade in Honors Ninth Grade Literature.
- You will be required to submit the summer reading assignment digitally. Therefore, you will need to complete the assignment on Google Docs or Microsoft Word. Instructions will be given on the first day of class for uploading your completed project.
- You are expected to adhere to the rules of Standard English Grammar. You will lose points for excessive typos, lack of punctuation, misspelled words, etc.
- **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Actions such as cheating, comparing answers, copying assignments, and plagiarism will result in a zero and disciplinary action. **ALL PROJECTS WILL BE EXAMINED USING A PLAGIARISM PROGRAM.**

Instructions: A primary goal of Honors Ninth Grade Literature and Composition is to teach you to analyze literature at a depth that goes beyond basic plot summary. For this assignment, you will be identifying examples of key literary elements from the text of *Animal Farm*. Follow the steps below to complete this assignment:

- 1) Create a Word Document or Google Doc where you will complete this assignment. Be sure to include your name, the due date, and the name of the class (Honors Ninth Grade Literature) in the top left corner of the page.
- 2) Create a table (just like the sample you see below) in your document. You will use this table to chart the literary elements. The table will be 5x21. (Five columns, twenty-one rows.) To create a table in Google Docs go to **Insert>Table>5x21**. You can then right-click on the table to add additional columns or rows.
- 3) Label the columns from left to right: Vocabulary Term, Definition, Quote from *Animal Farm*, MLA Citation, and Explanation.
- 4) **In Column One:** list the twenty vocabulary terms that you see below. Please list these in the exact order that they appear.
- 5) **In Column Two:** write the definitions of the vocabulary terms. The definitions that we will use throughout the class can be found below. Do not try to find or create your own definitions. Use the ones listed on this document.
- 6) **In Column Three:** as you're reading *Animal Farm*, you will look for examples of the twenty vocabulary terms. For each term, you will copy an *exact quote* from the book that demonstrates that specific term. Don't forget: when you're quoting from a book, you need to put the text in quotation marks. Don't be a plagiarist!
- 7) **In Column Four:** You will include an MLA parenthetical citation to indicate where you found the quote. MLA stands for Modern Language Association, and it's a specific style that we use when we're writing. When we cite a book in MLA, we include the author's last name (in this case, that will always be Orwell) and the page number where we found the quote. These are called parenthetical citations because they are in parentheses. Example: (Orwell 34) or (Orwell 63). Don't get creative. They should look just like the examples. The only thing that will change each time will be the page number!
- 8) **In Column Five:** You will explain, in your own words, the significance of the quote that you have chosen. It's not enough to just find an example of a literary term, you have to be able to identify why that literary term is important in the text. Each explanation must be a minimum of two sentences.

See the Sample Assignment and Vocabulary List on the Next Page

SAMPLE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Vocabulary Term:	Definition:	Quote from <i>Animal Farm</i> :	MLA Citation:	Explanation:
1) Paradox	A statement that seems contradictory but actually may be true.	"All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."	(Orwell 112)	The meaning of equality is that everyone is on the exact same level so nobody can be more equal. However, Orwell uses this paradox to point out the inequality that many people experience at the hands of a government that promotes equality.
2) Symbol	Anything that stands for something else. In addition to having its own meaning and reality, a symbol also represents abstract ideas.	"Windmill or no windmill, he said, life would go on as it had always gone on – that is, badly."	(Orwell 126)	The windmill that the animals are constructing on the farm symbolizes the tyranny and exploitation of the pigs that are in leadership. The pigs exercise their power over the other animals by having them build a windmill, only to use that same windmill to gain more power over the weaker animals.

Use the following vocabulary terms and definitions to complete this assignment:

- 1) **Antagonist:** A character or force in conflict with the main character.
- 2) **Climax:** The high point of interest or suspense in a literary work. The turning point in the conflict.
- 3) **Direct Characterization:** The author directly states a character's traits.
- 4) **Exposition:** In the plot of a story or drama, the exposition is part of the work that introduces the characters, the setting, and the basic situation.
- 5) **External Conflict:** A type of conflict in which the main character struggles against an outside force. Man v. Man, Man v. Society, and Man v. Nature conflicts are external.
- 6) **Falling Action:** The events in a plot that follow the climax and lead to a resolution.
- 7) **Flashback:** A means by which authors present material that occurred earlier than the present tense of a narrative. Authors may include this material in characters' memories, dreams, or accounts of past events.
- 8) **Flat Character:** A character that shows only one trait.
- 9) **Foreshadowing:** The use of a literary work of clues that suggest events that have yet to occur. This technique helps create suspense, keeping readers wondering about what will happen next.
- 10) **Indirect Characterization:** An author provides clues about a character by describing what a character looks like, does, and says, as well as how other characters react to him or her. It is up to the reader to draw conclusions about the character based on this indirect information.
- 11) **Internal Conflict:** A conflict that involves a character in a struggle with some aspect of him or herself.
- 12) **Metaphor:** A figure of speech in which one thing is spoken of as though it were something else. A comparison that does not use the words 'like' or 'as.'
- 13) **Personification:** A type of figurative language in which a nonhuman subject is given human characteristics.
- 14) **Protagonist:** The main character in a literary work.
- 15) **Resolution:** The final point of action in a literary work in which a general insight or change is conveyed.
- 16) **Rising Action:** The events in a plot that leads up to the climax.
- 17) **Round Character:** A character that shows many different traits, faults as well as virtues.
- 18) **Setting:** The time and place in which the action of a story occurs.
- 19) **Simile:** A figure of speech in which the words 'like' or 'as' are used to compare two apparently dissimilar items.
- 20) **Theme:** A central message or insight into life revealed through a literary work. The theme of a literary work may be directly stated or implied. When the theme is implied, readers must think about what the work suggests about people or life.