

10th Grade Honors English Pre-requisite Summer Reading Assignment

“Virtually all human skills and proficiencies deteriorate without practice. Imagine an athlete who takes several months off from training. It will take weeks, if not months, of training to return to peak performance. The same is true with readers and their reading” (“CBC Magazine: Perspectives” 1). Over one hundred years of research supports the use of summer reading programs to help students hone their reading skills.

At Seneca Valley, we believe it is important to foster essential reading skills over the summer to avoid this deterioration and to encourage students to continue to improve their reading skills.

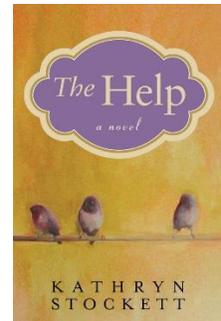
Our Reading Program Goals:

- To help students maintain reading and writing skills over the summer and avoid summer reading loss
- To prepare students for the next level of English curriculum and for the college experience
- To encourage students to become lifelong learners and develop a love of reading

Grade 10 Required Novel

“Be prepared to meet three unforgettable women:

Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.



Aibileen is a black maid who is a wise and regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.

Minnie, Aibileen’s best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody’s business, but she can’t mind her tongue, so she’s lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation, but her new boss has secrets of her own.

Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times, and sometimes lines are made to be crossed.

In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women – mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends – view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope,

The Help is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.”

-GoodReads.com

Assignment:

You are to read and annotate *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

Annotating a text, or marking the pages with notes, is an excellent, if not essential, way to make the most out of the reading you do. Think of annotations as “showing your work” while you read. You are showing what you are thinking while you read. Annotating helps readers reach a deeper level of engagement and promotes active reading.

Purpose of annotating:

- Annotations make it easy to find important information quickly when you look back and review a text.
- They help you familiarize yourself with both the content and organization of what you read.
- They provide a way to begin engaging with ideas and issues directly through comments, questions, associations, or other reactions that occur to you as you read. It makes the reading process an active one, not just background for writing assignments, but an integral first step in the writing process.
- They help make connections between yourself - the book- the world.
- They provide evidence in the text to support inferences
- They help by having you draw/ list/ map out confusing parts of the book to make it visual.
- Annotations help you to learn new vocabulary words.

How to Annotate a Text:

1. **Choose your weapon - highlighter, pencil/pen, sticky notes**
If you own the book, you may highlight or write in the book. If you borrowed the book, use sticky notes or highlighter tape.
2. **Remove yourself from distraction**
 - Go to a quiet space - your room, the library.
 - You have to read slowly and carefully.
 - Do not listen to music that will distract you from what you are reading.
3. **During reading:**

	Highlight any key words, phrases, or sentences that are important to understanding the work. Be sure not to just “color” and highlight too much.
	If a section is very important, use brackets instead of highlighting it all.
	Circle any words that you do not know then define them in the margin.
	Make connections to other parts of the text, yourself, the world, or other works you read. Note the connection in the margin.
	Draw pictures - make a visual connection or use a picture to show importance
	Highlight things that make you “think” or that you have an opinion then note the “ah-ha moment” or your opinion in the margin.
	Highlight any literary elements and label them. If you see satire or a metaphor, note it! Was that ironic? Mark it!

	Use question marks for sections or ideas that you do not understand and need to review/ revisit.
	Use exclamation points when you come across something surprising. Note why this was such a surprise.
	Highlight and label any symbols or great examples of imagery.
	Mark plot elements (setting, conflict, character, point of view, etc.)
	Note and explain any historical context or traditions/ social customs in the text. Highlight and explain in the margin: Any historical figures, diction or slang used, historical facts, and real events mentioned in the story
	Write your thoughts throughout. Write your “conversation” with the book as you are reading it.

At the end of each chapter:

- Write a brief summary of the main events
- Go back and give the chapter a title
- Write any predictions that you have
- Write reflections/ reactions/ comments
- Look for and note any patterns or connections between the chapters
- Note the tone of the chapter and why you feel that way
- Any predictions on themes... what is the author saying to you? What are the universal messages in this chapter?

Expectations:

- The first few weeks of the upcoming school year will focus on the summer assignment. The Honors 10 English teachers will decide on the assignments and assessments. These assessments will be completed in class where only your annotation and the book will be used as a resource. Therefore, a complete and thorough annotation will need to be complete when you return to school to aid you in completing these assignments and assessments.

Novel Access:

- Copies to borrow are available to sign out in room 118.
- Many websites including thriftbook.com and Amazon.com have used and new books available at discounted prices

Please contact Mrs. Hugus (hugusal@svsd.net) Room 116 or Ms. Russo (russom@svsd.net) Room 118 with any questions.