Summer Reading Assignment 10th grade Honors English

The Summer Reading Assignment for 10th grade Honors English is to complete a Rhetorical Analysis for the novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Since we will be discussing the novel the first few weeks of school, it would be in your best interest to read it closer to the beginning of the school year in order to knowledgably participate in discussions/activities/tests and/or to write about the events in the novel.

While reading the selected novel, students are **highly encouraged to annotate** the text. If you are unable to purchase your own copy to annotate, consider writing on sticky notes and affixing them to the corresponding pages. You may sign out a copy of the book with Mrs. Hugus in room 116.

*Rhetorical Analysis: Critical Reading Guide*

A rhetorical analysis of a text is applying critical reading skills to break down the "whole" of the text into the sum of its parts. You try to determine what the writer is trying to achieve, and what writing strategies he/she is using to try to achieve it.

Reading critically means more than just being moved, affected, informed, influenced, and persuaded by a piece of writing. Reading critically also means analyzing and understanding how the work has achieved its effect. **Note that there is not a written assignment**, however strong readers question what they are reading while they are reading it. Below is a list of focus questions to ask yourself to help in your rhetorical analysis of the novel.

Focus questions to think about while reading and annotating your summer assignment critically:

- What is the general subject? Does the subject mean anything to you? Does it bring up any personal associations? Is the subject a controversial one?
- What is the claim (the overall main point)? How does the claim interpret/comment on the subject?
- What is the tone of the text? Do you react at an emotional level to the text? Does this reaction change at all throughout the text?
- How does the writer arrange his/her ideas? What are the patterns of arrangement? Particular to general? Broad to specific? Chronological? Alternating?
- Is the text unified and coherent? Are there adequate transitions? How do the transitions work?
- Does the writer use dialogue? Quotations? To what effect?
- Are important terms repeated throughout the text? Why?
- Are there any particularly vivid images that stand out? What effect do these images have on the writers' purpose?
- Are devices of comparison used to convey or enhance meaning? Which tropes--similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, etc. does the writer use? When does he use them? Why?