



# Glendale High School

## **PREREQUISITE READING INFORMATION:**

Glendale High School strives for academic rigor in its Honors program. According to *New Horizons*, Springfield Public Schools expects all honor students “to read extensively, think critically and write lucidly.” It also states, “A higher quality of student performance and a greater depth of understanding is expected.” The prerequisite reading meets these criteria. In addition, this program is designed to prepare students for academic success by focusing on independent work and critical thinking.

Independent reading programs are established and accepted practices in Springfield, across the state, and throughout the nation. The students’ understanding of these literary works will help to initiate discussion of literary terms, techniques, style, and historical context. As the class progresses, these readings will also be used to illuminate other works and authors studied.

Motivated students wishing to enroll in honors and advanced English courses are expected to complete the reading before the start of the course. Students will need to keep a reading journal over the fictional work which will be handed into the teacher for credit on the first day of class (*directions for journal on back*). Within the first week of the class an assessment will be given over the reading. In addition, other assignments may be given throughout the term that will build on understanding of the text (i.e. comparison contrast essays, etc.)

The required works are available at local bookstores, at the public library, and may also be available online. Students are expected to acquire their own copy of the book.

Students and their parents should consider this information before scheduling in order to make an informed decision on course selection.

### **Required Reading:**

- **English I Honors:**
  - *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest J. Gaines
- **English II Honors:**
  - *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- **English III Honors:**
  - *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- **AP English Literature and Composition:**
  - *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
  - *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser, 1991 copyright and newer
- **Grammar and Composition and/or Advanced Composition:**
  - *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser, 1991 copyright and newer

## Reader Response Journal Directions

\*\*\* No reading journal is required for Zinsser's *On Writing Well* \*\*\*

As you read the required literary work for your class, compile a reader response journal by following the guidelines below:

- Create a title page listing your name, the book title, and author's name
- Complete five journal entries as you read
- The first entry must refer to the beginning of the book (exposition); entries two through four should refer to the middle of the book (rising action, climax, and falling action); the fifth entry should refer to the end of the book (resolution).
- Journal entries should be formatted as shown in the box below
- Write in complete sentences and use correct grammar and spelling
- Type or write in blue or black ink

This assignment will count as a grade in the course you are taking. Be prepared to turn in your journal on the first day of class. You will also be tested over the reading material within the first week of class.

See any GHS English teacher for questions or further clarification.

*(Put this information at the top of each entry.)*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Page Numbers Read:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Provide the following information in each journal entry.)*

**Summarize:** What does this part of the book seem to be about? Summarize the plot (*It may be helpful to do a point by point sentence summary rather than write in paragraph form*). You should also note any information on setting, conflicts, characters, and/or themes that seem important in this part of the book.

**Quote:** Write down an important quote from this section of the book. Explain why is it important? Record the page number on which it appears.

**Comment:** Make observations about what you have read. React personally. Be opinionated. Be argumentative. Be honest. -- How does this part make you think or feel? Does it remind you of anything personally? Did you learn any lessons? What confuses you or causes you to wonder at this point? etc.