



**Rolling Meadows High School**  
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**Dr. David R. Schuler**  
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## **Greetings, Honors Written and Oral Communications students!**

We want to extend an early "Congratulations!" for having completed middle school in high academic standing! As a future student of the freshman honors English program, you will have the opportunity to pursue your love of language on a more rigorous level, starting with the two summer reading projects detailed below.

### **REQUIRED READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS**

**1. YOUNG ADULT LIT:** Read one book from the summer reading list, posted on the RMHS website.

**YOUNG ADULT LIT ASSIGNMENT:** Create text-based discussion questions, due 8/22/16  
Be an inquisitive reader! As you read, use sticky-notes to mark aspects of the story that would spark class discussion. **Based on the text you marked, write 5 questions which would require thinking and discussion (i.e., no "either/or" or "yes/no" questions).**

**2. CLASSIC LIT:** As an honors student, add this American classic to your summer reading list: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (TAHF)*, by Mark Twain. (For ease in annotating the text /taking notes on the pages, it is strongly suggested you buy your own copy of the **unabridged version**). Chosen not only because it's frequently referenced on the AP Lit test, we also considered the timeless themes of *TAHF* which resonate with issues of contemporary society. Tackling such challenging texts will prepare you for the rigor of this course. Twain's writing presents some difficult style elements, such as regional dialects, so you should try listening to the text while reading to get enhance your understanding (free audiobook via Loud Lit.org).

**TAHF ASSIGNMENT:** Paragraphs of text-based response, due 8/26/16

**For each prompt listed below, write a paragraph of text-based response, using the rubric as a guide.**

- Begin with a topic sentence that provides the general answer to the prompt. Before introducing the quote(textual evidence), give some story context, explaining what is going on in the novel where your chosen quote takes place(i.e., what is happening, when, where, why, and with whom) and introduce who is speaking and to whom.

- Blend your chosen quote (as short as one sentence but no longer than one paragraph) from the novel to support your answer to the prompt. Use MLA style to cite the author's words exactly, typed inside quotation marks, followed by the page number in parentheses. For guidance with internal citations, visit Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL).

•After the quotation, explain its significance to your answer. Be sure to use your best writing style and grammar as you produce this **typed, double-spaced document. ALL THREE PARAGRAPHS SHOULD BE TYPED ON THE SAME MLA-FORMATTED DOCUMENT.**

**Paragraph Prompts:**

1. Choose a scene to which you can personally relate. Then, detail the parts of that scene that parallel with your life, such as similar characters, settings, or actions from the chosen scene. Conclude by justifying the importance of this scene to your understanding of *TAHF*.
2. After reading the first few chapters, what is your reaction to Huck Finn? Explain.
3. How do you feel about Huck Finn by the end of the novel? Explain.

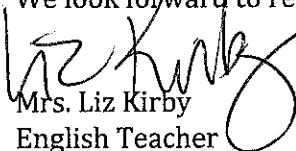
**Rubric for writing and scoring text-based paragraphs:**

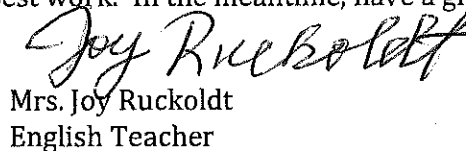
Component	Meets requirements	Developing	Incomplete
<b>Grammar and Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Double spaced, 12 point font</li> <li>•Few if any errors in spelling, capitalization, sentence structure</li> </ul>	5-8 errors	10 or more errors
<b>Paragraph Structure (7-10 sentences, <u>exclusive of the cited material</u>)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contains a topic sentence that introduces the idea</li> <li>•Purposeful transitions</li> <li>•At least 5 sentences of elaboration</li> </ul>	Topic sentence lacks focus OR Basic transitions OR lacks elaboration	Missing topic sentences, transitions, or elaboration
<b>Focus and Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Addresses the prompt <b>using specific connections to the assigned book, including citation from the novel.</b></li> <li>•Gives detailed explanation</li> <li>•Avoids repetition</li> </ul>	Vague connections OR lacking details/citation OR repeats ideas	Does not address prompt and/or make connections. May lack details or contain repetition of ideas.

**Please bring both books to class for the first three weeks.** Your Young Adult-novel questions will be the basis for our first lit circles activities. (There will be no YA test.) Not only will your *TAHF* annotations and journals be the springboard for your first Socratic seminar discussion, but they will also help you prepare for your first major lit test.

**Should you have any questions,** please feel free to contact either of us via our D214 email accounts, posted on the RMHS site.

We look forward to reviewing your best work. In the meantime, have a great summer!

  
Mrs. Liz Kirby  
English Teacher

  
Mrs. Joy Ruckoldt  
English Teacher