



Rolling Meadows High School
2901 West Central Road
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008
847-718-5600 ■ rmhs.d214.org

Dr. David R. Schuler
Superintendent

Eileen M. Hart
Principal

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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.

YOUNG ADULT LIT ASSIGNMENT: Higher-level discussion questions

Be an inquisitive reader! Write questions about the plot, characters, or themes that would spark class discussion. At least 5 questions which would require thinking and discussion (i.e., no "either/or" or "yes/no" answers). Bring these to class on the first day.

2. CLASSIC (CANONICAL) LIT: As an honors student, add this American classic to your summer reading list: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (TAHF)*, by Mark Twain (original text). This text usually appears on the AP Literature test, so the reading will help build your literary background. It is suggested you buy your own copy for ease in annotating the text (taking notes on the pages). Access a free audiobook on the website Loud Lit.org. We realize that this text is challenging because of the dialect, so listening to the text as you read it will enhance your understanding. Tackling challenging texts, like this one, will prepare you for the rigor of this course.

TAHF ASSIGNMENT: Paragraphs of text-based response

For each prompt, write a paragraph of text-based response, using the attached 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. Also, introduce who is speaking and to whom).
- Blend your chosen quote from the novel to support your answer to the prompt. (The quote can be as short as one sentence but no longer than one paragraph.) 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.

Journal Prompts:

1. Choose a scene to which you can personally relate. Specify the parallels 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 (the character)? Explain.
3. How do you feel about Huck Finn (the character) by the end of the novel? Explain.


Rubric for writing and scoring text-based paragraphs:

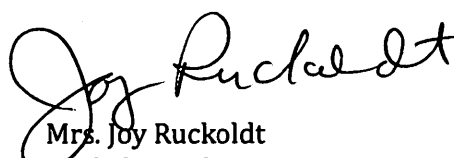
| Component | Meets requirements | Developing | Incomplete |
|--|--|---|---|
| Grammar and Format | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Double spaced, 12 point font•Few if any errors in spelling, capitalization, sentence structure | 5-8 errors | 10 or more errors |
| Paragraph Structure (7-10 sentences,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

Please plan on bringing both books to class for the first few weeks. You will use your *TAHF* journals and annotations to participate in our first Socratic seminar discussion, and they will help prepare you for your first big test, which will be multiple choice over the novel. You will be using your questions over the choice novel to engage in literary discussions and activities, but there will be no test over this novel.

We look forward to reviewing your BEST work.

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Liz Kirby
English Teacher


Mrs. Joy Ruckoldt
English Teacher