

**English 11 Honors: American Literature
Summer Reading Assignment
2017-2018**

This summer you are required to read the novels *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. While stylistically different, these novels shed light on America's past and its social structure, conflict, and prejudices.

You will take a test during the first full week of school on *To Kill a Mockingbird* and complete an assignment for *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* assignment is due Monday August 28, 2017. Do not procrastinate. Spread the work out over the summer. You may want to consider reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* toward the end of the summer since that work will be tested, and you will want the information to be fresh. Special note: Some of you may have read *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the past. Please reread the novel. This novel will not only be tested but also be a reference point throughout the year.

Requirements:

- 1. You will have a test on *To Kill a Mockingbird* the first full week of school.**
- 2. You have a written and artistic requirement for *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. Due: Monday August 28, 2017.**

Study Guide for *To Kill a Mockingbird*: mandatory

While reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, keep an accurate account of characters. The best method of doing so is to connect each of the following characters to Scout. What is his or her relationship to Scout, what events can be connected between the character and Scout, and what ideas/attitudes does the character represent?

Answer the following questions about the characters (character list on next page)

- A. What did the character accomplish in life?
- B. What failures did the character experience?
- C. Who were the character's friends or enemies?
- D. What did the character do for a living?
- E. What was the character's general attitude in life?
- F. What joys, sorrows, fears, or surprises did the character experience in life?
- G. Of what was the character proud or ashamed?
- H. What secrets did the character possess?
- I. What one memory will the character feel is the greatest or most powerful?
- J. How does the character feel now that he/she is no longer alive?
- K. Does the character have interesting information about other characters that would be interesting to know?
- L. If the character were to offer advice to the living, what would it be?

Characters

Scout Jem Atticus Calpurnia Miss Maudie Stephanie Crawford
Miss Dubose Miss Caroline Burris Ewell Miss Caroline Dill
Walter Cunningham, Jr. Walter Cunningham, Sr. Uncle Jack
Aunt Alexandria Zeebo Lulu Dolphus Raymond Bob Ewell
Tom Robinson Helen Robinson Link Deas Mr. Underwood
Heck Tate Judge Taylor Tim Johnson Boo Radley Nathan Radley
Mayella Ewell Mr. Gilmore Mrs. Merriweather Simon Finch
Cousin Francis Little Chuck Little Cecil Jacobs Rev. Sykes

1. Note the setting: time and place
2. What is the point of view (who narrates the story)?
3. What evidence of the themes of social, racial and gender prejudice are present?
4. Atticus states, "It is a sin to kill a mockingbird." He defines a "mockingbird" as something that is vulnerable, makes beautiful music, and brings no harm to anyone. Within the context of that definition, who are the "mockingbirds" of the novel?

The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

Assignment: All students will create a collage. In addition to the collage, students will choose ONE Written Response Option. This response should be approximately 250-500 words (minimum: 1 double-spaced full page not to exceed one and one half pages!) **Your name, course, instructor, novel title, and the Option number should be in the upper left hand corner of the page.**

Collage Instructions (required)

You will create a collage representing the ideas and conflict found in the novel *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. Its size should be approximately a half sheet of poster board. It must be fully covered- no white space. The title and author's name must be found within the collage. Consider using more than one medium (magazine pictures/ physical objects/ newspaper etc.). On the back of the collage, you must attach an explanation of your work and why you chose the pictures, ideas, and symbols to represent the novel. This should be 200-250 words in length and typed MLA style.

Written Response Options: Choose one of the options below.

Choose **ONE** Written Response Option. This response should be approximately 250-500 words minimum: 1 double-spaced full page not to exceed one and one half pages! **Your name, course, instructor, novel title, and the Option number should be in the upper left hand corner of the page double spaced (MLA style).**

Please note that the responses must make specific references to the work; generalities will yield a much lower grade.

Option #1: Compare or contrast one of the characters with someone you really know. Use specific examples of appearance, actions, personality, likes/dislikes etc. Support your examples with citations from the novel (page number).

Option #2: Which characters in the novel evoked the most sympathy (in your opinion), which characters did you dislike? Why? Be specific.

Option #3: From your perspective, is the school setting in the novel even remotely accurately portrayed? Are the kids like kids you know? Are the teachers realistically portrayed?

Option #4: Which character (in personality) are you most like? Identify one or two of your personality traits and compare them to specific actions or attitudes of the character you have chosen.

Option #5: What personality traits of two women or two men in the novel or one of each, have you experienced?

Option #6: What were the two most moving scenes in the novel? Why? Would you recommend this novel to others to read?