

Incoming Sophomore Honors Summer Reading Requirements 2018

There are two reading requirements for incoming sophomores taking Honors British Literature. One is Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*; the second is Matthew Harffy's *Kin of Cain: A Short Bernicia Tale*. You **must** purchase a paper copy of the text for use in class when we return in August. Please do not rely on borrowing from the library or purchasing an e-book for this. In the following document, there are various required assignments. Please read all directions carefully.

All work will be handed in on or before August 27, 2018. All work must be typed using Times New Roman text, 12 pt. font and double spacing. A heading should appear at the top of the first page and be formatted as indicated below. A title should follow, centered on the next line and contain the information necessary to determine which activity follows.

Student first and last name

Mrs. Euclide

British Literature H 120-01

27 August 2018

Your final packet should contain writing assignments for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* and for *Kin of Cain*. These can be placed on the same page, but should be labeled.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time
Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched, and he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for a captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novel.

During Reading: One of the advantages of a first person point of view is that the readers see the world from someone else's perspective. One of the effects of this particular text is that readers can understand Christopher's behavior because he explains the reasons, such as why he starts groaning.

Using a Post-it note, mark 5 passages where the first person point of view helps you to understand Christopher's unique perspective to the point where instead of questioning why he does what he does, that you accept it because you are so drawn into Christopher's logic, that it becomes "normalized," as much as that can be! Please choose carefully. There are so many options and I want to discuss the passages that most draw you into Christopher's mind.

After Reading: In the novel, readers learn about what the main character, Christopher, carries in his pockets: a Swiss army knife (a kind of penknife with lots of different tools), a piece of string, a piece of wooden puzzle, 3 pellets of rat food, 1.47 pounds (money), a red paper clip, a front door key.

In a paragraph (8-10 sentences), discuss what this reflects about Christopher's personality. Then, make a list of 5-8 items that you would carry in your pocket. In a paragraph (8-10 sentences), discuss what this reflects about who you are.

Kin of Cain: A Bernicia Tale
Matthew Harffy

It is AD 630 in Anglo-Saxon Britain. Winter grips the land and terror stalks the hills, moors and marshes of Bernicia. Livestock and men have been found with their bones gnawed and flesh gorged upon. People cower in their halls in fear of the monster that prowls the night. King Edwin sends his champions, Bassus, Octa and band of trusted thegns (warriors loyal to the king) to hunt down the beast and to rid his people of this evil. Bassus leads the warriors into the wasteland of the northern winter, and they soon question whether they are the hunters or the prey. Death follows them as they head deeper into the ice-rimmed marshes, as they close in on their mission. This short tale connects the actions of tribal warriors and reveals how history transforms itself into epic myth.

During Reading: This plot driven text serves to reveal much about the values of the Anglo-Saxon culture and the things that were important to the people who lived at that time. While you are reading, use Post-it notes to mark 5-7 passages that reveal cultural values of the Bernicians. (This is the name of King Edwin's people.) For example, the author reveals the name of the sword as Hrunting. The very idea of naming weapons indicates that weaponry and swordsmanship is very important to these people.

After Reading: Make a list of the top ten things that today's culture values. This may or may not be aligned with your personal values. A good place to look is your TV or your phone! Commercials, ads on YouTube and Google reflect cultural values of our current society. This list should be typed with the appropriate heading at the top of the page.