9th Grade General Literature

For incoming 9th graders, summer reading will consist of two books: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and a book of their choice. In this process, students should <u>not</u> collaborate or seek any assistance from the internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, or Wikipedia. If you have questions about format, email your 9th grade teacher (mdouglas@pcagreenwood.org). This essay and the project are due at the end of the first full week of school..

9th grade General Literature is the class that prepares students for all future years in English courses. By completing individual reading assignments over the summer, students will both reaffirm the skills they learned in middle school and familiarize themselves with new work.

Below you can find information about the assignments that will go along with their reading.

Part 1: *To Kill a Mockingbird* → Essay

Below are four writing prompts for the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Please choose ONE of the prompts and write a well-organized essay in response to it. Use the prompt as a basis for formulating your introduction and thesis statement. Be sure to use *at least one* piece of textual support for each of your body paragraphs.

1. Harper Lee suggests that real courage is the ability to stand up for what you believe in. In an organized and supported essay, explain how the children's (Scout's and Jem's) ideas about courage change throughout the novel, beginning with what they consider to be courage and showing how that evolves to the point where they finally come to understand that real courage is standing up for what is right despite the risks or sacrifices of doing so.

2. Harper Lee presents the idea that a person's education outside of the classroom helps us to mature and better understand life's more difficult situations. Explain how the events in Part One (Chapters 1-11) of the novel prepare the children (Scout, Jem, and Dill) for the events of the trial of Tom Robinson and the events that follow its unfair verdict.

3. Harper Lee suggests that it takes an innocent child to see the hypocrisy of the adult world. Using examples from the text, show how Scout (and perhaps Jem and Dill) are able to see the hypocrisy that the adults of Maycomb so blindly engage in.

4. Atticus says that people need to crawl inside other people's skin and see things from their point of view. Analyze this theme and discuss what we learn when characters in the book demonstrate this act of seeing from another's perspective.

Format: This essay should be at least two (2) full pages, double-spaced. You should use 12 pt. font and standard (one inch) margins. If your essay is not formatted correctly, I will ask you to resubmit it and will automatically deduct five (5) points. You should also have an appropriate and interesting title. When you use quotes, you must write the page number immediately after the quote: "quote" (23).

Part 2: *Story of your Choice* → Project of your choice

Below is a list of options for students to choose from for their second project. The only requirement for this book is that it must be at least 150 pages long and students must not have previously read the book. Parents, please make sure that your students are reading books that you deem appropriate.

Project Options:

Choose one of the following:

- **Poetry Anthology** → Write at least 5 original poems and include at least 3 found poems that relate to the book's contents. Bind it like a book (with a cover and table of contents.) Also, write a forward that identifies the theme of the book.
- **Prezi** → Build an interactive presentation that leads the audience through a story summary (that does not give away the ending!!). It should include images, text, and embedded video. Your goal is to invite the audience to also read the book. You must include an introduction of your characters, an overview of plot, and a thematic concept as well as a thematic statement.
- **Character Party** → Plan a theme party for the characters from the story. Create an event planning folder that includes visuals and descriptions of each element and why you chose it. Your folder should include an invitation, a menu, and a seating chart as well as a plan for entertainment and decoration.
- **Setting Diorama** → Create a high quality shoebox diorama of a scene from the book you read. Write a detailed explanation of the scene and attach it to the diorama.
- **Theme CD** → Compile a selection of 5-8 thematically related songs that represent the book. Though you may make this a digital playlist, you must include a physical CD insert that include that includes a page for each song and a detailed explanation for how the lyrics relate to the novel
- **Book Budget** → Based upon the activities and interests of the main characters, make a list of the supplies and services that were utilized in the story. Research and estimate the costs associated with the items and calculate the characters' total expenses. Create a spreadsheet (Google Sheets or Excel) for the data.
- **Board Game** → Based on the theme of the story, create a game that includes at least 10-12 trivia cards related to the plot, playing pieces that represent the characters, a method of movement and hazards related to the conflict(s) in the novel, and a detailed rule book.
- **Reading Reflections** → Choose and retell 2 main events from the book. For both events, explain your personal connections and support those connections with a personal story. All of your ideas

must be thoroughly thought through and you must present them in the form of a scrapbook or a poster.

- **Original Song & Music Video** → Compose and record an original song (based on the plot & theme). You may use garageband or real instruments for this. Create an accompanying music video that pairs visuals with the music and lyrics. Upload the video to youtube (does not have to be a public video) and send Ms. Douglas the link.
- **Children's Pop-up Book** → Create a pop-up book that contains a minimum of 6 pop-up elements based on the book's content. The pictures and pop-ups must be paired with text.