Welcome to English II Honors!

English II Honors is a rigorous course that is designed to help prepare you for college-level coursework and beyond. **Please read the directions carefully and be sure to thoroughly complete all parts of the assignment.** You are expected to have this assignment completed on the first day of school, and it can significantly impact the way you begin the year. Do not procrastinate!

**What You’ll Read:**

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

“In a far future world, television dominates, and books are outlawed. The totalitarian regime has ordered all books to be burned by ‘firemen,’ whose job is to start the fires rather than stop them. But one fireman begins to see the value of the printed word” (NPR.org).

*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

“Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire* is the tale of a catastrophic confrontation between fantasy and reality. Fading southern belle, Blanche DuBois, is adrift in the modern world. When she arrives to stay with her sister, Stella, in a crowded, boisterous corner of New Orleans, her delusions of grandeur bring her into conflict with Stella's crude, brutish husband Stanley Kowalski. Eventually their violent collision course causes Blanche's fragile sense of identity to crumble, threatening to destroy her sanity and her one chance of happiness” (Penguin.co.uk).

**What You’ll Be Expected To Do:**

Part 1 - Read and annotate each book.

**What does it mean to annotate?** Annotations are notes that you write in the pages of a book that may be explanations, comments, or questions that you have while you are reading. Annotations are like a conversation that you're having with the book while you read. They serve as a great way to help you stay focused on your reading, record questions you may have, and remember important points or quotations.

For the first portion of your summer assignment, you must carefully read and annotate each book. **In September, you will be handing in your copies of the books to your teacher. Your annotations will be graded based on completeness and how thoroughly you have engaged with the texts during your reading.** We highly recommend you purchase your own copies of the books; however, you may also sign out copies of the books from RBR. If you purchase the books, you may write, underline, and highlight directly in the pages of your copies. If you are using one of RBR’s copies, please use Post-It notes in the pages to take your annotations. We do not expect you to underline every sentence, but we do expect you to engage with each text. Be an active reader by (1) asking questions, (2) noting patterns, (3) defining unknown words, and (4) identifying important quotations or details about the plot and characters. For more information and tips on annotating literature, see the handout entitled “How and Why to Annotate a Book” by Nick Otten (attached). Additional resources on annotating works will also be available in the Google Classroom. This portion of your assignment is worth 40 points.
Join the English II Honors Summer Work Google Classroom (code: 0oxc2ds). Throughout the summer, you will be required to answer four discussion questions in the English II Honors Google Classroom. Be sure to respond to the discussion questions by referencing specific passages from the texts. Cite them using proper MLA documentation style to support your answers. The purpose of the discussion questions in Google Classroom is for you to become more reflective about what you are reading and for you to engage with your peers in meaningful discussion about the texts. **DO NOT simply summarize what you have read! This is not the intent of the discussion and doing so will negatively impact your grade.**

You will be required to submit your answers to each question IN ADDITION TO responding to at least one of your classmates' responses for each of the four questions. A response to one of your classmates that consists of "I like what you said" or "I agree" or anything else that is devoid of substance will NOT constitute a response and therefore will not receive credit. Again, specific references to the texts are always required.

You must also copy, paste, and submit all of your answers to the discussion questions and your responses to your classmates in a single document to the designated assignment in Google Classroom. Use the template provided and fill in the chart fully to receive full credit. Below, you will find the scheduled due dates for Discussion Questions 1 through 4. Both your response to the discussion question AND your response to one of your classmates are due by 11:59PM on the due dates listed below. **This portion of your assignment is worth 60 points.** All due dates are firm, no exceptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Questions</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **DQ1: Fahrenheit 451**  
- A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works, a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Select one symbol and write a response analyzing how that symbol functions in *Fahrenheit 451* and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not summarize the plot. | July 12 |
| **DQ2: Fahrenheit 451**  
- In Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899), protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess “That outward existence which conforms, the inward life that questions." In *Fahrenheit 451*, identify a character who outwardly conforms while questioning inwardly. Then write a well-developed response in which you analyze how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid mere plot summary. | July 26 |
| **DQ3: A Streetcar Named Desire**  
- In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a character in *Streetcar* that must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write a response in which you show how the character’s relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. | August 9 |
| **DQ4: Streetcar Named Desire**  
- It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from the play. Select a character from *Streetcar* that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized response in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. | August 23 |
A Note about Shortcut Websites and Plagiarism

Throughout our year together, you will be required to explore various works of American literature. You are expected to be able to discuss, analyze, and evaluate these works in ways that move far beyond the text summaries on SparkNotes, CliffNotes, Shmoop, or other websites. These websites DO NOT replace closely reading the works, and relying solely on these websites or similar shortcut sources will negatively impact your grade!

Additionally, this summer assignment is INDIVIDUAL. You MAY NOT work with another student or group of students on this assignment. Students caught cheating or sharing work will be referred for disciplinary action and will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you cut and paste from websites and attempt to use it as your summer assignment, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Be sure to start the year by demonstrating your academic integrity and completing your own work.

Part 3 - In-Class Essay

The final portion of your summer assignment will be completed when you return to school in September. You will be completing an in-class essay on your summer reading. Your annotations and discussion questions will help you to prepare. Be sure to read the works carefully, annotate fully, and actively participate in the discussion questions. Your preparedness for the in-class essay is directly related to the amount of effort you put into your work throughout the summer. This portion of your assignment is worth 50 points.

Assignment and Grading Checklist:

- Part 1: Annotations .......................................................... 40 points
  - Complete Annotations for Fahrenheit 451 (Due the first day of school)
  - Complete Annotations for A Streetcar Named Desire (Due the first day of school)
- Part 2: Discussion Questions (DQs) .................................................. 60 points
  - Answer DQ 1 (Due July 12)
  - Respond to a Classmate for DQ1 (Due July 12)
  - Answer DQ 2 (Due July 26)
  - Respond to a Classmate for DQ2 (Due July 26)
  - Answer DQ3 (Due August 9)
  - Respond to a Classmate for DQ3 (Due August 9)
  - Answer DQ4 (Due August 23)
  - Respond to a Classmate for DQ4 (Due August 23)
  - Save all responses and submit to the Assignment in Google Classroom using the template provided. (Due August 23)
- Part 3: In-Class Essay .......................................................... 50 points
  - Be prepared to complete this essay when we begin school in September!

Total: 150 points