

To: All English II Honors Students
From: Ponderosa High School English Department
Re: Summer Reading

Welcome to Honors English II! Congratulations on your decision to challenge yourself with an honors-level class. The extra effort you will put forth will make you a better reader, writer, and critical thinker. The challenge- and the learning – begin this summer. The following summer reading assignment is designed to give you an opportunity to read, write, and think so that when you return in August your skills are sharp and you are ready to embark on a year of literary exploration and growth.

This summer you will read two books: The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger (1951) and The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros (1984). Both books are “coming of age” novels with young, perceptive protagonists trying to find their place in the sometimes confusing and troubling world. Both books are highly acclaimed by critics and readers alike and offer a plethora of themes, literary elements, and stylistic devices for us to explore. The following assignments will help us do just that. In addition, be prepared to discuss, analyze, and write about the novels when we meet in August.

REQUIRED HONORS ENGLISH II SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS:

The following assignments are due on the FIRST DAY OF CLASS:

- ❖ Read The Catcher in the Rye and annotate as you read.
- ❖ Answer the multiple choice questions included in this packet. You will not understand every term, concept, and vocabulary word and you are not expected to at this point. HOWEVER, you are expected to attempt every question included in this packet – Honors students seek to understand. Also, we would like to challenge you to search out information on your own, to be curious, and not accept ignorance unchallenged. This is our way of introducing you to the manner in which we will be approaching the examination of the written word. Feel free to write definitions and notes on these sheets and come prepared to defend your answers.
- ❖ Complete the Symbols/Images/Motifs chart
- ❖ Read The House on Mango Street and annotate as you read.
- ❖ Write two (2) vignettes as explained in this packet.

Textbook Information

Students are expected to have a copy of each of the following novels:

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| 1. <u>The Catcher in the Rye</u> | JD Salinger |
| 2. <u>The House on Mango Street</u> | Sandra Cisneros |
| 3. <u>The Crucible</u> | Arthur Miller |
| 4. <u>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</u> | Mark Twain |
| 5. <u>The Old Man and the Sea</u> | Ernest Hemingway |
| 6. <u>The Great Gatsby</u> | F. Scott Fitzgerald |
| 7. <u>The Grapes of Wrath</u> | John Steinbeck |

It is accepted practice in honor classes for students to purchase their own copies of each novel so they may annotate and interact with each novel. Students are expected to purchase the books at a local bookstore or online. We will give a list of all our novels to Barnes and Noble and Borders at Park Meadows and the Borders at Arapahoe Crossing. Both Amazon and Barnes and Noble offer these books online and www.alibris.com and www.bookfinder.com supply used books through their sites.

If you are unable to purchase the books you may check them out from our library. You may not write in these books (therefore annotating must be done on sticky notes), and even minimal damage will result in a fine of \$15.00. Please contact the library or Bret Weller, the English department Chair, in room 113 if this need applies to you for the summer reading assignment.

If you have any questions regarding obtaining books or the summer reading assignment, please contact Bret Weller in room 113 or via email at bretweller@dcsdk12.org.

Have an enjoyable summer!

The House on Mango Street

As you might already imagine, we are going to spend a considerable amount of our efforts next year analyzing the style an author uses when s/he writes. Specifically, we will discuss the stylistic devices that authors use to convey a particular idea or theme. What makes The House on Mango Street so innovative and enjoyable is Sandra Cisneros's particular style. Through the mixture of prose and poetry, she captures the time, place, and tone of her main character's adolescence. While reading this book, we would like you to begin to analyze her use of some stylistic devices in telling Esperanza's story.

1. Rhetorical Strategies

While reading, look for as many examples as possible of the stylistic devices listed below. Copy the illustrative quotations on a separate sheet of paper; be sure to include a parenthetical citation for each indicating the page number. Label each quotation's stylistic device.

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Personification
- Alliteration, Assonance, Consonance
- Hyperbole
- Symbolism
- Allusion
- Repetition/Parallelism

If you don't know what some of these stylistic devices are, Google "literary terms" to find a definition and examples. Find out what the stylistic devices are before you begin reading; we expect you to know/understand these terms when you join us next year. This is your chance to begin to analyze Cisneros's use of language in The House on Mango Street!!

2. ANECDOTES

In response to The House on Mango Street, we would like you to pay Sandra Cisneros the compliment of imitation. Write two anecdotes (small true-feeling stories) which show aspects of who you are. Each anecdote should be filled with the kind of imagery, metaphor, and acute observation of human interaction that makes The House on Mango Street so special. You may use any of the topics here as jumping-off points, but don't feel limited by them. All anecdotes should be **relatively short** (1 MLA formatted page - typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, etc.).

Possible Topics:

My house	My hair	Boys and girls	My name	My neighbor's pet
First time riding a bike	My sibling(s)	A beautiful thing	A childhood game	The time s/he got caught
To be beautiful	Racism	When my attitude changed	My friend who's unhappy	Beauty
My friend's names	A dangerous moment	A horrible time at school	A moment of glory	A change I've gone through
First day of work	First kiss	An experience with death	A big regret	The spirits
A great loss	A strange neighbor	The scandal	A crush	Where I don't belong
Heartbreak	What I dream	Feeling helpless	Revenge	My own power
A parent's regret	Brutality	A wild place	Home	Getting away

What matters is the intensity and creativity of the writing. Notice how Cisneros communicates the depths of human experience through the smallest details, and try to emulate her genius. See how thoroughly grounded this book is in the particulars of a specific time and place and point of view? It's a bit of a paradox, but writing is most profound when it's most specific. As you're working on your anecdotes, do your best to show experience through imagery and experience; avoid telling ideas through clichés or generalities. Have fun!

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Directions: This part consists of selections from The Catcher in the Rye and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Note : Pay particular attention to the requirement of the questions that contain the word NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Read the passage from Ch. 1 which begins at the beginning of the chapter and ends “It was pretty funny, in a way” (p 1-3) carefully before you choose your answers.

1. The narrator’s tone could best be described as
 1. Defensive
 2. Hostile
 3. Self-assured

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 3 only
(D) 1 and 2 only
(E) 1 and 3 only
2. The first paragraph primarily serves
 - (A) To shock and alienate the reader
 - (B) To create sympathy for the narrator’s unhappy childhood experiences
 - (C) To give hints about the narrator’s current circumstances
 - (D) As an expository foil to the next two paragraphs
 - (E) As an objective assessment of the narrator’s character
3. The author develops the character of the narrator through
 1. Diction
 2. Syntax
 3. Selection of detail

(A) 1 only
(B) 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 2 and 3 only
(E) 1, 2, and 3
4. From the context , the reader can infer that “this crumby place” the narrator refers to in the middle of the first paragraph is most likely
 - (A) A mental institution
 - (B) A boarding school
 - (C) A school in California
 - (D) His brother’s house
 - (E) A detention center for juvenile offende
5. The first complete shift in setting occurs
 - (A) In the middle of the 1st paragraph (“I mean that’s all I told D.B. about)
 - (B) At the beginning of the 2nd paragraph (“Where I want to start”)
 - (C) Toward the end of the 2nd paragraph (“And I didn’t know anybody”)
 - (D) At the start of the 3rd paragraph (“Anyway it was the start of the football game”)

- (E) At no point in the passage is there a major shift in setting
6. Based on the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of the passage, the narrator could be described as all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) Hyperbolic in narrative style
 - (B) Overly emotional
 - (C) Sarcastic
 - (D) Perceptive
 - (E) Foul-mouthed
7. Which of the following is NOT a logical assumption from the passage
- (A) The narrator's parent are financially secure
 - (B) The writer is sympathetic to the narrator
 - (C) The narrator's parents are reserved and somewhat detached emotionally
 - (D) The narrator is very interested in sports
 - (E) The writer is critical of certain aspects of society
8. When the narrator states, "Now he's out in Hollywood, D.B., being a prostitute," he most likely means that
- (A) Only prostitutes make money in Hollywood
 - (B) His brother is selling out his talent by writing screenplays
 - (C) His brother is exchanging sex for money
 - (D) He views all movie actors as sex friends
 - (E) His brother has exchanged sex for fame
9. From the 1st paragraph, the reader can infer all of the following about the narrator EXCEPT that he
- (A) Is reckless
 - (B) Fears censure from adults
 - (C) Has few friends
 - (D) Uses slang
 - (E) Makes excuses for his behavior
10. In the paragraph about the ducks, the "it" in the last sentence probably refers to the chance of
- (A) The lake freezing over before Christmas
 - (B) The ducks being in Central Park at that time
 - (C) Starting a conversation with the taxi driver
 - (D) The taxi driver knowing the answer to the question
 - (E) Diverting the taxi driver's hostility
11. The narrator's response to the taxi driver's question of "Where to?" reveals his
- (A) Creativity and sense of humor
 - (B) Insecurity and desire to appear mature
 - (C) Openness and desire for conversation
 - (D) Desire to find entertainment and thrills in life
 - (E) Need for adult advice and guidance
12. The taxi driver's attitude toward the narrator could best be described as
- (A) Cruel
 - (B) Condescending
 - (C) Hateful
 - (D) Indifferent

(E) Jocular

13. In the paragraph beginning “Well - - take me to the Edmont then, “ the narrator reveals his

1. Desire to impress adults
2. Desperation for companionship
3. Maturity and worldliness

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1 and 3 only
(E) 1, 2, and 3

14. The narrator’s thoughts on the taxi driver’s refusal of the offer of a drink are an example of

- (A) Asyndeton
(B) Understatement
(C) Anaphora
(D) Litotes
(E) Sarcasm

15. In this passage, the narrator is presented as all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) Callow
(B) Urbane
(C) Negative
(D) Profane
(E) Defensive

Read the passage from Ch. 16 of The Catcher in the Rye which begins “After I got to the Lunts’ show” and ends “and a squaw weaving a blanket” (p. 118-121) carefully before you choose your answers.

16. The paragraph beginning “It was lousy in the park” is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) Cumulative sentences
(B) Repetition
(C) Concrete details
(D) Figurative language
(E) Declarative sentences

17. The narrator’s comment that the park “made you depressed reveals that he

- (A) Is highly sensitive to the extreme ugliness of city life
(B) Dislikes the commercialism of Christmas
(C) Seeks excuses for his negative feelings of depression
(D) Is sad that this park is the only place his sister can play
(E) Remembered the park as being prettier than it actually is

18. The author most likely put “any” in italics “It didn’t seem like *anything* was coming soon” to convey the

1. Total dreariness of the park
2. Extent of the narrator’s depression

3. Depth of the sensitivity of the narrator

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 3 only
- (D) 1 and 3 only
- (E) 2 and 3 only

19. The author most likely included the narrator's comment about the little girl's sweater being "lumpy" and made by the mother in order to

- (A) Reveal the narrator's snobbery in matters of dress
- (B) Create reader sympathy for the little girl
- (C) Demonstrate the narrator's perceptiveness and negativity
- (D) Show the narrator's repressed anger at his own mother's attempts at knitting
- (E) Hint at the conflicting emotions within the narrator

20. Given the context of the passage (and the novel as a whole), the narrator's comment "I love it when a kid's nice and polite" can best be interpreted by the reader as

- (A) Sarcastic
- (B) Symbolic
- (C) Ironic
- (D) Flippant
- (E) Straightforward

21. The long paragraph about the museum is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) Similes
- (B) Hyperbole
- (C) Concrete detail
- (D) Colloquial expressions
- (E) Personification

22. From the long paragraph about the museum, the reader can infer that the narrator

1. Sometimes misbehaved in private life
2. Is very perceptive of small details
3. Appreciates kind, even-tempered adults

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 only
- (D) 2 and 3 only
- (E) 1, 2, and 3

Read the passage from Chapter 22 of The Catcher in the Rye which begins "You don't like *anything* that's happening" and ends "I said it anyway, just to make sure" (p. 169 -173) carefully before you choose your answers.

23. Holden becomes "even more depressed" when Phoebe says' "You don't like anything that's happening" most likely because

1. The comment reveals that even she does not understand him
2. Her tone is less than sympathetic
3. He knows her analysis is correct

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 3 only
- (C) 1 and 2 only
- (D) 2 and 3 only
- (E) 1, 2, and 3

24. After Phoebe's "Name on thing," which of the following is LEAST revealing of Holden's state of mind

- (A) The repetition of "one thing"
- (B) The explanations about his inability to concentrate
- (C) His thoughts about the nuns
- (D) His memories of James Castle
- (E) His perception of Phoebe's relative physical distance from him

25. From the two long paragraphs about James Castle, the reader can infer all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) The incident troubled Holden because he identified with Castle
- (B) Holden really did not know what the boys had done Castle
- (C) Holden admired Castle for standing up to the bullies
- (D) Holden told Phoebe about the incident so she would better understand his depression
- (E) The way the school handled the incident bothered Holden

26. From Holden's comments about that he does like, the reader can infer that Holden likes

- (A) Eating and horseback riding
- (B) Feeling connected emotionally
- (C) Making money and being successful
- (D) Recognition for doing a job well
- (E) Concrete results for hard work

27. In the paragraph beginning "Lawyers are all right," the last half of the paragraph reveals Holden's

- (A) Philosophical depth and concern with motives
- (B) Fallacious reasoning process
- (C) Fear of being successful on a competitive setting
- (D) Distrust of lawyers and the legal process
- (E) Obsession with circular logic

28. Holden states three times that his desire to be the "catcher in the rye" is "crazy" because he

- (A) Knows that no such job exists in society
- (B) Feels somewhat vulnerable as a result of opening up to Phoebe
- (C) Realizes the idea is a mere hallucination
- (D) Has heard others say that whenever he has talked about the idea
- (E) Is aware that the idea is not really his goal in life

29. Holden's sudden urge to call Mr. Antolini probably is caused by Holden's

- (A) Fear of his father's reaction to Holden's expulsion from school
- (B) Anger at Phoebe's response to his revelations of his desires
- (C) Urge to flee from Phoebe's obvious disapproval
- (D) Inability to remain in one place for an extended period of time

(E) Desire to speak with an adult who might understand his feelings

Read the passage from Ch. 25 and 26 of The Catcher in the Rye which begins “After we left the bears” and ends at the conclusion of the novel (p 210 – 214) carefully before you choose your answers.

30. In the first paragraph, Holden’s comment “fifty years ago when *I* was a little kid” reveals his
1. World-weariness
 2. Tendency to exaggerate
 3. Extreme maturity for his age
- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 2 and 3 only
(E) 1, 2, and 3
31. In the short paragraph beginning “I’m too big,” the second sentence
- (A) Should be in the first paragraph
 - (B) Provides transition to the next paragraph
 - (C) Reinforces Holden’s dependency on Phoebe
 - (D) Continues the narrative stream of events
 - (E) Illuminates Holden’s empathy for Phoebe
32. Given the context of the passage, the children “Trying to grab for the gold ring” most likely symbolizes attempts to
- (A) Achieve financial security in the world
 - (B) Show one’s abilities to the world
 - (C) Demonstrate independence from parental control
 - (D) Attain one’s goals by stretching one’s abilities
 - (E) Overcome one’s fear of failure
33. When Phoebe puts Holden’s red hunting hat on his head, his remark that it nearly “killed” him reflects
- (A) His extreme sensitivity to being physically touched
 - (B) His latent hostility to any kind of motherly action
 - (C) How touched he is by her gesture of love and concern
 - (D) How relieved he is that she gave him back his talisman
 - (E) His unwillingness to express his true feelings
34. In the last sentence of the first paragraph of Ch 26, “that stuff” refers to
- (A) The fight Holden has with his parents when he went home with Phoebe
 - (B) Holden’s studies and schooling
 - (C) Holden’s life with his parents and their relationship
 - (D) Holden’s recent past and his future
 - (E) Holden’s feeling about Phoebe, his family, and his friends

35. Holden's explanation about why the question about what he will do in September is stupid is
- (A) An indication that he is emotionally unstable
 - (B) Based on logic and honesty
 - (C) A reflection of his uncooperative nature
 - (D) Sarcasm that conceals his anger at his situation
 - (E) Intended to conceal his desire to succeed in life
36. The passage is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) Straightforward chronological order
 - (B) First person narrative
 - (C) Repetitive phrasing
 - (D) Slang
 - (E) expletives

The Cather in the Rye Images, Symbols, Motifs: Review and reflect on how the following items are presented in the novel. In the first column, state possible meanings for each one. In the second column, identify the item as an image, symbol, and/or motif.

Topic	Possible meaning	I/S/M
Holden's red hunting hat		
Pency Prep		
Museums		
Unmade phone calls		
Allie's baseball glove		
Erasing profanity		
The ducks		
"Little Shirley Beans" record		
The carrousel		
Other:		