

English 9: Honors ONLY
Summer Reading/Writing Assignment

** If you are going to be in Honors English your freshman year at Arundel, this is the only English Summer Reading assignment you are required to do.

1 – Read the short story “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut. It can be found at the following website:

<http://www.teacherweb.com/OR/cottagegrovehighschool/scrima/Harrison-Bergeron.pdf>

- **When you click on the website a box might pop up. If it does, click “ok” and then the document should appear. (If the website does not work then just Google search the story and find another copy of it . . . this shouldn’t have to happen though.)**
- **”Harrison Bergeron” is only the first 5 pages of the 19 page document that comes up because it has questions at the end. Do NOT do those questions ONLY do the assignment described below!! The assignment below is the ONLY written assignment required.**

2 – Compose a character analysis essay addressing the following prompt:

Assignment: Your assignment is to write a character analysis of Harrison Bergeron in the short story “Harrison Bergeron”. You will choose three adjectives that describe him. These adjectives, or characteristics, will be the basis of your five-paragraph essay.

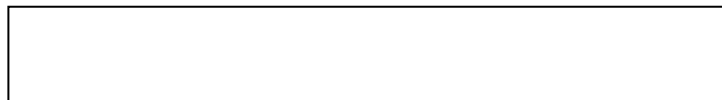
Requirements:

- Your thesis statement should be stated directly in your introduction and be proven throughout your body paragraphs. (See pg. 3 of the packet for specifics on writing a thesis statement.)
- You must use **at least one quotation** from the novel **in each of the three body** paragraphs to support your ideas.
- Length – The paper should be at least one full page typed, but no more than two pages.
- The paper must be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font and double-spaced.
- The paper must have a title...do not underline it or put it in quotes.
- Deductions will be made for the following errors:
 - 1st and 2nd person pronouns
 - Slang and non-specific words (thing, guy, a lot, kid, etc.)
 - Grammar, spelling, and usage errors

- Typing errors
- Tense shifts...write in all present or all past tense...be consistent.
- Not underlining or italicizing book titles

****If additional help is needed e-mail one of the following:**

Mrs. Ladika – kladika@aacps.org



Detailed Outline:

Paragraph #1

Introduction – general comments about the character and/or novel lead you to your thesis statement (The sentence stating what you're proving in your essay . . . there is an example on the next page!!!!) Be sure you have identified the author and title of the book, the character you will be analyzing, and the adjectives you'll be using.

Paragraph #2

Body Paragraph – your topic sentence for this paragraph includes one adjective you chose to describe your character. Follow this topic sentence with 2 examples from the book and 1 quotation from the book. Conclude with a summarizing sentence to wrap-up your ideas.

Paragraph #3

Body Paragraph – your topic sentence for this paragraph includes one adjective you chose to describe your character. Follow this topic sentence with 2 examples from the book and 1 quotation from ideas.

Paragraph #4

Body Paragraph – your topic sentence for this paragraph includes one adjective you chose to describe your character. Follow this topic sentence with 2 examples from the book and 1 quotation from the book. Conclude with a summarizing sentence to wrap-up your ideas.

Paragraph #5

Conclusion – restate your thesis statement & add some final thoughts about your character and/or the novel...leave the reader in awe of your wisdom!

Writing a thesis statement...

A thesis statement is a sentence that makes an assertion about a topic and predicts how the topic will be developed. It does not simply announce a topic; it says something about the topic, and it provides the framework for your paper.

Never start a thesis with, “In this paper I will discuss...”

A thesis statement makes a promise to the reader about the scope, purpose, and direction of the paper. It summarizes the conclusion that the writer has reached about the topic.

For the writer, the thesis statement:

- Serves as a planning tool.
- Helps the writer determine the real focus of the paper and clarify the relationship between ideas.
- Becomes a hook on which the writer can “hang” the topic sentences that present evidence in support of the argument.
- Anticipates questions about the topic and provides the unifying thread between pieces of information.

For the reader, the thesis statement:

- Serves as a “map” to follow through the paper.
- Prepares the reader about what he/she is to read.
- Keeps the reader focused on the argument.
- Helps the reader spot the main ideas.
- Engages the reader in the argument.
- Offers enough detail for your reader to grasp your argument.

Be sure your thesis...

1. takes a stand- do not just state an observation.
2. expresses one main idea- keep it narrow and specific.

Example:

Through Miss Maudie Atkinson’s open-mindedness, optimism, and compassion, she helps Jem and Scout better understand Atticus and their community.

(The example above is based on To Kill a Mockingbird, a novel you’ll be reading your freshman year at Arundel.)