

ENGLISH I HONORS READING LIST

Captain Shreve High School

2017-2018

Teacher: Mr. Scott

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Dear Student,

Let me take this opportunity to give you an early welcome to my English I class and inform you of the assignments which you will need to complete prior to the first day of school. Before we look at the assignments themselves, let me make one point very clear: *DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS TO COMPLETE THEM*. By doing so, you are asking for both misery and misunderstanding; give yourself two full weeks (at minimum) to complete them. Reading at a leisurely pace will allow the information in the book and presentations to “sink in”, and working at such a pace will let you avoid any unnecessary stress. Fumbling through the book at three pages per minute while trying to piece together nonsense the night before the first day of school is a recipe for disaster. Your work will reflect your procrastination and will by no means achieve Honors standards. Trust me.

Note: all assignments are to be typed or emailed to me on or before the due date. Assignments should be organized neatly in either a folder or clipped/stapled together. Handwritten assignments will result in a 25% loss of points, and late assignments are a 15% point loss per day late.

Part 1: Defining The Hero's Journey

“There are only two or three human stories, and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely as if they had never happened before.” - Willa Cather

Your first assignment is to become familiar with The Hero's Journey. Joseph Campbell, the world's most famous mythologist, discovered that the myths and stories of nearly every culture throughout the world followed the *same* pattern, a pattern he called The Monomyth or The Hero's Journey. What's perhaps even more interesting, is that our modern stories - novels, movies and video games - follow that pattern as well. To fully understand his ideas, you'll need to complete the following:

1. **Read the following page for a detailed explanation of the Hero's Journey.** You can skip “The Memo That Started it All” if you wish. http://www.thewritersjourney.com/hero's_journey.htm#Practical
2. **Watch the TedEd talk called “What Makes a Hero?”:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hhk4N9A0oCA>.
3. **Watch Glove and Boots' “The Hero's Journey”:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZxs_jGN7Pg. If you're having trouble, just type “Glove and Boots Hero's Journey” in the YouTube search bar.

Note: I've attached a copy of a Hero's Journey graphic to the last page of this document. Print it and use it as a note-taking guide when reading and watching your assigned texts.

Part 2: Discovering the Hero's Journey

4. **Read *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer.**
5. **Annotate your book.** As you read, use sticky notes or write in your book (highlight and make notes if using an Ereader). Doing this helps you pay more attention to what you read, and it helps you remember where, how, and why events occur in the novel. This way you can refer back to it later during test prep and class discussions. I will be checking your book for annotations. Draw smiley faces or sad faces when good/bad stuff happens. If you have

a question as you read, write it down. I also recommend writing a few bullet points of summary on a sticky note at the end of each chapter.

NOTE: Annotating a book might seem to take more time, but your understanding of the novel will increase. If you read your novels at the beginning of the summer, all you'll have to do is review your notes as the school year gets closer! **DUE FIRST DAY OF CLASS. 100 Points**

Note: If you are unsure about proper annotation, refer to this guide:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WvIXjdHsMOrkDgI0tBwnHwtARc8roFNxBYXakN7aAU0/edit?usp=sharing>

6. Joseph Campbell's theory applies mainly to myths and stories, but he often asserted that the Hero's Journey happened in our own lives. **Choose three stages of the Hero's Journey and in a paragraph each, briefly define each stage in your own words, correlate it to a specific event from the book, and briefly discuss why it connects to that stage of the Journey.** This does not have to be in essay format. **DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS. 50 points**
7. Listen to or watch *Hamilton: An American Musical*. There are multiple ways to do this. The songs with printed lyrics are available on Youtube. You can also listen to it on Spotify, the Shreve Memorial Library Hoopla app, or you may purchase it online at various sources. Visit the Captain Shreve website - www.captainshreve.com - for more information. When finished, complete the same assignment from *Into Thin Air*: **Choose three stages of the Hero's Journey and in a paragraph each, briefly define each stage in your own words, correlate it to a specific event from the musical, and briefly discuss why it connects to that stage of the Journey.** This does not have to be in essay format. **DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS. 50 points**

A few tips regarding the Hero's Journey:

1. **Think metaphorically:** The stages of the journey are often represented in a figurative way - sometimes the Call to Adventure is merely a desire the hero has. The same goes for the Supernatural Aid; it isn't literally someone with superpowers - it's just someone (or something) that has abilities or knowledge beyond what the hero has, and helps using those skills.
2. **Observe other stories:** I'm sure you're going to watch at least *one* movie over the summer - observe how the Hero's Journey plays out in the films you watch. Superhero, Disney, and children's movies all follow the same Hero's Journey pattern.
3. **Do outside research:** If there's a topic or step you don't understand, research what other people have written about it. Being an Honors student requires that you go the extra mile and inform *yourself* if you don't understand something, rather than giving up because you "don't get it" or waiting for the teacher to explain it to you on the first day of school.

