English II Pre-AP
Summer Assignment 2019

Required Text:
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (TAoHF)* by Mark Twain

This book can be downloaded online or purchased from many retailers including Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, or Half Price Books.

A letter from your teacher:

Hello fabulous individuals! I am so excited I get to be your teacher this year, and I can’t wait to meet you! One thing you need to know about me is that I expect a lot of my students, but in return, they can expect a lot from me. We will work, learn, and grow together. You will learn that I am not perfect and make mistakes just like everyone, but I will be honest with you to the best of my ability. In return, I request that you do the same. If you are struggling, I need you to let me know. If you need help, it is imperative that you ask for it. If you have extenuating circumstances, I can’t help if I don’t know. With that being said, the easiest way to get ahold of me is via email at Shannon.hutchins@decaturisd.us. I check my email daily during the summer and much more often during the school year. I genuinely want to help you. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Much love,

Ms. Hutchins

Now, on to the featured presentation!

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is an amazingly historical, classic piece of literature that discusses, via satire, the troubles in America during the time period prior to the Civil War. Huck is a young teen who leaves home and delves into many amazing adventures as he rides down the Mississippi River with the unlikeliest of companions. As they drift and ride through life, they each learn many new lessons. It is going to be your job to help me understand what Mark Twain was trying to tell the world.
Personal feelings:
These questions will be discussed the very first day of school as we get to know each other. Look within yourself to decide what your feelings are about some of the main, controversial topics, which you deal with in your daily lives, and you will see in *T AoHF*. To begin, answer the following questions based on your own feelings before moving on to the next part of the assignment. Answer each question in at least 2 fully developed, well-constructed sentences. Be sure to explain your “why.” Why do you believe what you believe? This will be turned in on the first day of school.

1. Do you believe that everyone who lacks traditional education is less intelligent, therefore, their opinions should not be considered when making major decisions?
2. Do you believe superstitions are justifiable or ridiculous? Why do you believe this?
3. Do you believe running away from your problems is never okay no matter the circumstances?
4. Do you believe there is only one right way to go through life? Why do you believe this?
5. Do you believe families are made up of the people who share the same bloodline and those who married into that bloodline?
6. Do you believe everyone who owned slaves or believed in slavery were bad people?

Historical context:
These are questions you will need to answer prior to reading TAoHF, so you can grasp the story line better as you go on the adventure with Huck Finn. They seem basic, but the content you will learn will help you better understand the material. This will be a daily grade with numbers 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 being very important to the grade.

1. In what year was *TAoHF* written?
2. In what year is *TAoHF* set?
3. **Who** wrote *TAoHF* (birth name?)
4. What is his **pen name**?
5. **Why** did he write under 2 different names?
6. **What was going on** in America during the **SETTING** of the book?
7. **Why** did the author write this particular piece of work?
8. **When** was *TAoHF* **first banned**?
   a. **How soon** was this after its first publication in the USA?
   b. **Why** was it banned so quickly after its first publication?
9. **Are there still schools** who ban *TAoHF*?
   a. **Why** does it get banned in today’s society?
10. **What has changed** in our society that has affected the reasons for the banning of the book over the years?
Analytical short answer assignment:

**Important information: read this carefully!**

Here are a few things to consider, think about, and contemplate while you read the novel. This may require you to look up the literary devices diction, tone, and mood to help you along the way. All literary devices work together to create a great novel. You must understand this to truly appreciate good literature.

The denotation and connotation of words an author uses are what sets the scene in each work of literary art. If a writer uses the word boring vs. dreary, dull, bleak, or depressing, does it give you a different feeling than if he had used boring? What if he used good vs. stupendous, superior quality, or even incredibly pleasing. If the author uses lighthearted words, does it give you that feeling of lightheartedness? Think back to your Dr. Seuss days. If the author uses a dark, ominous word choice, does it give you a sense foreboding deep in your soul? Think back to your days reading Edgar Alan Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart.” All of these word choices work in unison to create diction which in turn gives you your tone and mood of the book or story you are reading.

With all that being said, work through the following questions to help you better understand TAoHF through diction, tone, and mood.

Your full assignment is on the next page! Do not skip this major assignment that will be your first test grade of your sophomore year!
*Directions:* For each of the following, you will write your answers in fully-developed, complete sentences. You must also provide the sentence in which it is found within the book. You will need to cite your sources as in text citation as well as provide a Sources Cited page. (This may require you to look up MLA formatting guidelines.) This assignment, when it is completed, is only 7 paragraphs.

**Example: This is an example of tone:**
Golding’s repetitious use of the word “grave” in chapter 2 of *Lord of the Flies* gives a continual sense of the foreboding tone that Golding portrayed throughout the novel. One such example is seen on page 36 when he writes, “Murmur; and the Grave nodding of heads.” While the word “grave” is one word that helps set this ominous tone, he also uses word combinations such as, “vivid horrors... nakedly terrifying.” On page 85, he uses this phrase “vivid horror... so nakedly terrifying,” in the sentence, “The vivid horror of this, so possible and so nakedly terrifying, held them all silent,” which compounds this tone of uneasiness. Finally, his use of the term “savage” in the sentence, “He pointed at this savage and that with his spear,” on page 160, continues to show the tone Golding was trying to illustrate. His use of multiple words, terms, and word phrases throughout the entire work proves the tone of *Lord of the Flies* is threatening, ominous, and foreboding.

1. **List 3 words** that create the diction of the novel. Throughout the book, not all from 1 chapter!
   a. For each word, you will include the word from the book and its denotative meaning as well as a synonym of that word.
2. **What is the tone of the book in chapters 1-14?**
   a. List 2 words that set that tone.
3. **What is the tone of the book in chapters 15-29?**
   a. List 2 words that set that tone.
4. **What is the tone of the book in chapters 30-chapter the last?**
   a. List 2 words that set that tone.
5. **What is the mood of the book in chapters 1-14?**
   a. List 2 words that set the mood.
6. **What is the mood of the book in chapters 15-29?**
   a. List 2 words that set the mood.
7. **What is the mood of the book in chapters 30-Chapter the last?**
   a. List 2 words that set the mood.