

June 8, 2010

Dear

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition at Hickory High School. Before you leave for the summer, I need to give you the specifics for your summer reading assignment. These readings are designed to prepare you for success in the coursework of AP English and the subsequent AP Examination.

Titles: You are strongly encouraged to procure personal copies of the following texts so that you will be free to annotate, highlight, and otherwise consume your novels. However, school-owned copies will be made available to those students who request them; please make arrangements as soon as possible to obtain the novels from me if that will be your choice.

Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

Martell, Yann. *Life of Pi*.

Assessments. You will be assessed on these readings during the first nine weeks of the school year. Each assessment will be worth a test grade. See the attached list for details.

Enjoy your summer and get ready for a dynamic year of thought-provoking literature, discussion, and writing! Call me (619-0681) or e-mail me (franzrel@cps.k12.va.us) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Ms. Franz

Reader Response Journal: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

While reading *Tess*, please keep a journal. The journal should include, at the minimum, a response to each chapter. The journal must be handwritten, not typed. Typed journals will receive a zero. You should respond to:

- Plot summary
- Characters (descriptions of, changes in)
- Setting
- Theme(s), motifs, and symbols
- Unique literary devices (symbolism, allusions, irony, etc.)
- Reader reactions and questions

This journal will be assessed via a **closed-book, open-journal test** during the first week of school. You may wish to visit the library or the Internet to research the background of the work. However, please know that Spark Notes, Cliff Notes, and movies will not be sufficient resources for carefully composed journals. Furthermore, additional assessments (objective and written) will occur throughout the year as we reread the novel, discuss it, and analyze it for literary technique and themes.

Open Essay: *Life of Pi*

You will be asked to respond to the following prompt in an **in-class essay** during the first week of school.

In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas or behavior of the minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Consider how the tiger, Richard Parker, serves as a foil to Pi. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the relationship between the Richard Parker and Pi illuminates the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

This essay will be assessed according to the College Board rubric used to assess essays on the AP test.