

Hello, Class of 2015 Pre-AP English Honors 2 Student!

As a result of your English 1 teacher's recommendation and your performance thus far, you have been selected for the Pre-AP class for 2012-2013.

In this class, we will take an in-depth approach to the English curriculum with a focus on preparation for success in the Advanced Placement Language and Literature courses. Students will study literary devices and elements, SAT vocabulary, analogies, and review grammar skills as they engage in the writing process.

Additionally, class members will read and analyze fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. Numerous opportunities for participation in research-based oral/PowerPoint presentations and local, state, and national writing competitions will be available. Honors credit will be awarded for this course.

For summer reading, please purchase Sharon Draper's award-winning novel, **Copper Sun**. In this novel, 15-year-old Amari is stolen from her village and sold to the highest bidder. As she figuratively and literally continues her life's journey, hope is all that remains.

Novel Purchase information:

*Paperback/Hardback; New/Used editions are equally acceptable.

*Books-a-Million at Lakeside Village will also have copies—behind the front counter; ask at the register.

*Check On-line sources: amazon.com; half.com for the best prices

We will begin discussing and reacting to this novel the second week of school. **As you read, please annotate the novel, using a Double Entry Note format.** Be sure your notes include entries concerning *Character Description (Afi, Amari/Myna, Polly, Teenie, Tidbit, Clay, Isabelle) *Setting (Make note of the continued reference to the Sun throughout the novel *Figurative Language (Similes, Metaphors, Personification) *Literary Elements (Symbolism, Themes, Foreshadowing) *Plot Elements (Setting, Mood, Conflict) *Vocabulary Words-(effective or unusual Word Choice) **NOTE PAGE NUMBERS**—See Sample on back of this page.

***Don't just Read the novel; Think and Write about it.

D.E.J. Sample from Anthem by Ayn Rand

Example:

p. 17 Description of darkness in the tunnel and the candle flame.
(Setting)

p. 33 "We awoke when a ray of sunlight fell across our face."
(Imagery)

Explanation/Thought/Reaction:

I find it odd that the tunnel is characterized as dark when there is a candle burning to give off light.

This is one of the few scenes that paints for me a picture of something happy or pleasant or colorful.

Make reading a part of your summer. **As you read other materials, start two separate lists of *Powerful Verbs & *Exciting Adjectives.** We will use these as we improve our own writing. In addition to novels, newspapers and magazines are excellent sources for these. If you come across some "knock our socks off" examples of eye/ear catching writing, copy the whole sentence or paragraph to share.

Having heard wonderful reports about you from your 9th grade teachers, We are eager to meet and work with the most outstanding English students in the Class of 2013. By Thursday, June 4th, please bring the signed Commitment Form to either your English teacher or to us in rooms 3218 or 3219. Enjoy your summer and **Copper Sun.**

All the best,

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seth.spencer@polk-fl.net

English Honors 2 Pre-AP Commitment Form

I have read the Course Description and class expectations. I understand that this course will require significant time and preparation, and that being present (and following up after absences) is a necessity. I am willing to accept this commitment.

Student Name: (printed) _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student e-mail: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent e-mail: _____

Please return this form to your current English teacher or to Mrs. Snell or Mr. Spencer in 3219 or 3218 by Thursday, June 4th.