

## Honors English 9 Summer Reading Assignment

*Welcome to Honors English 9! I am looking forward to meeting you soon!*

*The Summer Reading program, sponsored by the English Department at Padua Franciscan High School, is designed to entice students to read and recognize notable contemporary literature. We wish to engage student interest, encourage critical thinking, and challenge our students as readers. As such, some titles on the list may contain sensitive material and deal with more mature themes than some students may have encountered previously. The target audience of all the selected literature is young adults; moreover, the title selections for the Honors English courses are chosen in accordance with the AP program. Students are encouraged to find more information about these selections through the local library or through sites like Goodreads.com and Amazon.com. Additionally, the English Department strongly encourages students and parents/guardians to discuss the content, themes, and overall inherent literary value of the selected novels. Happy Reading!*

*Sincerely,  
Ms. Anne Bilancini*

Summer Reading questions will be taken for approximately 40 points at the beginning of the school year. As such, I expect your answers to be both neat and professional when you turn them in. Therefore, please type (double-space!) your answers using complete sentences and set up your paper according to MLA formatting rules (Times New Roman, size 12 font). Please print your answers as they will be collected during the first week of school.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at [abilancini@paduafranciscan.com](mailto:abilancini@paduafranciscan.com). Good luck!

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### ***Maus I* by Art Spiegelman**

1. The very first scene in this novel shows Artie being left behind by his friends, to which his father says, "If you lock them together in a room with no food for a week... then you could see what it is, friends!" How does this set the tone for the book as a whole?

#### Chapter 1:

2. Identify and describe the following characters: Vladek, Artie, Mala, Lucia, Anja.

3. At the end of this chapter, Vladek specifically asks Artie not to include the story about Lucia and Anja in Artie's book about the Holocaust, but Artie does anyway. Why do you think this is?

#### Chapter 2

4. When Vladek takes Anja to recover from her depression, what do they encounter for the first time? What is their reaction to it?

#### Chapter 3

5. Why does Vladek's father try to starve him and not let him eat?

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6. Using what you already know about the Holocaust, why do you think the author chose to portray the Jews as mice and the Nazis as cats?

Chapter 4

7. How does life for the Jews get progressively worse in this chapter? Give at least examples.

8. At the end of this chapter, Mala complains about how Vladek saves everything and refuses to spend money if he doesn't have to. Why might Vladek behave this way?

Chapter 5

9. In this chapter, Vladek feels hurt by a comic he finds that Artie wrote. What does the comic reveal about Artie's mother? What does it reveal about Artie?

10. What do we learn about Vladek and Anja's first child (Richieu) in this chapter?

11. When the Germans decide to get rid of the rest of the Jews in Srodula in 1943, how does Vladek manage to avoid being taken to Auschwitz?

Chapter 6

12. At the beginning of this chapter, Artie worries about the way he is portraying Vladek. One particular trait of Vladek's is making him uneasy. What is it, and why is he worried about it?

13. How are Vladek and Anja eventually tricked into being sent to Auschwitz?

14. Artie and Vladek have a falling out at the very end of the book, with Artie calling Vladek a 'murderer.' Has Vladek actually murdered anyone? Why is Artie so upset with him?

### ***The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding**

1. Discuss the character traits of Ralph and Jack.
2. Trace the development of the relationship between Ralph and Piggy.
3. Discuss the character traits of Simon.
4. Discuss the cause of the conflict between Ralph and Jack, the results of that conflict, and how, or if, the conflict is resolved.
5. Discuss the theme of the novel. What message is Golding trying to convey to his readers?
6. Discuss the conch as a symbol.
7. Discuss the characters of the novel as symbols.
8. Discuss the significance, or, if you can determine the literal meaning, of the title.
9. How does the setting affect the action of the novel? Is the setting beneficial to the boys, or would you say it's more of a hindrance?
10. What does it mean to say *The Lord of the Flies* is an allegorical novel? Explain.