

Summer Reading for Incoming (non-AP) English IV Students

Required: You **must** read the provided short story, “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin and the two provided poems, “Poem for Flight” by Becky Birtha and “Digging” by Seamus Heaney.

A) Annotate each work. Please consider these ideas as you mark the selections:

Setting	Characterization	Mood	Imagery
Shift points	Allusions	Theme	Tone
Alliteration	Consonance	Assonance	Speaker
Powerful diction	Contrast	Questions you have	

B) Answer the following questions. Be as specific as possible and demonstrate your best composition skills.

Story of an Hour

1. Explain your understanding of, and reaction to, the final line.
2. Describe Chopin’s style as a writer. Support all claims with evidence from the text.

Poem for Flight

1. Paraphrase the poem in a sentence or two. Use the text to justify your statement.
2. Explain the effect Birtha achieves by framing the poem in the 2nd person.

Digging

1. How does Heaney use onomatopoeic words to contribute to the reader's engagement in the poem?
2. Explain the metaphor in the final stanza.

You **will be graded** on this work during the first two weeks of first quarter

Optional: Each of these tasks, **completed well**, will earn you extra credit toward your first quarter grade. No extra credit can be earned, however, unless the required work is done.

A. Read More.

Read any/all of the books listed below.

1. *The Girl Who Threw Butterflies* by Mick Cochrane
2. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
3. *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
4. *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green
5. *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
6. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

For each,

1. Identify the three characters you judge to be the most important. Supply one quote from each character that best captures that character's attributes. Explain.
2. Describe one facet of the book that you wish the author had handled differently, and explain why. You may consider such ideas as plot events, style choices, or unanswered questions.

BEWARE! You may be asked unexpected questions about the book to verify that you did, in fact, **read** the book, the whole book and nothing but the book. SparkNotes is not your friend.

B. Research and Present.

Based on your last name, research one of the following topics. Find information from at least two sources. You will present your information to the class, including your sources.

If your last name begins with **A – D**, your topic is Old English

E – H, *Beowulf*

I – L, Middle English

M – P, *The Canterbury Tales*

Q – T, Shakespearean Tragedy

U – Z, Shakespearean Comedy

Your presentation will help introduce the class to material to be covered during first quarter. You may use note cards and the ActivBoard to assist you. You should gather and organize enough information for a presentation of three to five minutes.

C. Watch a Play.

Attend one/both of the productions of Shakespeare in Delaware Park.

For each,

1. Bring in the *Synopsis* page from the program.
2. Answer, in paragraph form, the following questions:

What surprised you about the play?

What confused/puzzled you about the play?

What did you like most and least about the play?

Please explain your answers, using specific detail. “It was nice” is an inadequate answer.

This summer’s productions will be *Henry V* and *The Comedy of Errors*. *Henry V* will run from June 19 through July 13 and *Comedy of Errors* will run from July 24 through August 17. Performances are held every night of the week **except** Mondays.

Performances start at 7:30 pm, but you should be seated by 6:30 to get a good spot.

Admission is **free**, although a donation is requested. You must bring a blanket or chair to sit on, and a picnic is recommended. Plays are performed on the stage at the bottom of Shakespeare Hill, behind the Rose Garden of Delaware Park.

Check shakespeareindelawarepark.org for directions or more information

