**Honors American Literature 10**

SMCC Honors Courses: The purpose of an Honors program is to challenge students to excel in specific disciplines above and beyond the expectations of the regular classroom. Honors courses are provided as an option at SMCC for students who exhibit a high ability in a subject and who learn at an accelerated rate. These courses are designed to academically challenge students beyond the standard curriculum. Honors courses over more material at a quicker pace, while challenging students to think and process at a deeper level. Honors classes are expected to be demanding, since discussion, homework, class work, and testing is at a greater level of difficulty and complexity. Students are expected to exhibit a higher degree of academic and personal maturity as well as more responsibility for their own learning.

**Independent Reading, Writing, and Speaking Assignment**

**First Quarter 2016**

**Read**: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1855) by Mark Twain.

1. As you read the novel, keep a **reader’s journal** in which for EACH CHAPTER, you categorize and take notes on the following information: **Tone, Language and Style, Imagery, Theme, Nuance and Ambiguity. (see below)** Notes should be thorough, neat, organized, and handwritten.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Literary Element** | **Description** | **How to Identify** |
| Tone | The author’s attitude | Determine if the author is serious, playful, or critical. |
| Language and Style | The manner in which ideas are expressed | Study the lengths and rhythm of sentences, details, repetition, and changes to pronunciation, spelling, or grammar. |
| Imagery | Word pictures that appeal to the senses | Analyze descriptions of places, objects, settings and experiences. |
| Theme | A work’s central idea, message, or insight about life | Identify the author’s purpose and note images or ideas that repeat. |
| Nuance and Ambiguity | Literary elements that can be interpreted in multiple ways | Look for significant words, figurative language, symbols, changes in characters, and the variety of meanings they may have. |

**Oral Interpretation Assignment**

1. Once you have submitted your notes, choose an excerpt from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.* Consider the stylistic devices and elements shown in the chart when choosing your excerpt. Once you have selected your excerpt, see me for approval.

Plan Your Interpretation:

1. Focus on delivery techniques. How will you use eye contact, vocalization, tone, and gestures to add drama to your interpretation?
2. Mark up your selection – Make notes on **a copy** of your excerpt indicating how you will use your voice and movement to communicate your understanding of the work. (See below) Use music, images, or sound effects to enhance the artistry of your interpretation. Consider props and /or costumes to convey your message.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Voice/Motion** | **Notation** |
| Vocal emphasis | Underscore |
| Strong Vocal emphasis | Circle |
| Pause | Backslash |
| Increase speed | Up Arrow |
| Decrease speed | Down Arrow |

1. Practice –perform in front of a mirror, friend or parent and or consider videotaping and watching yourself before your delivery date.
2. **Delivery – must present by Friday, October 14th.**
3. Presentation length is 3-5 minutes.
4. Presentation must be scheduled with me prior to delivery
5. **Write a brief analytical essay detailing your findings.**

Analysis should represent a thorough understanding of the excerpt (theme, plot, characterization, as well as the stylistic elements used by Twain ), include appropriate examples (**textual evidence)** to show support, and demonstrate creativity and originality. Ideas and reasoned arguments are presented in a completely logical sequence. **Page length is 1-2 pages, includes a separate Works Cited page.**

**Total Point Value: 101**

Reader's Journal – (Handwritten) - 20

Marked excerpt – (Typed/handwritten marks are acceptable) -10

Analysis – Typed in MLA format, proper heading, header, in-text citations, Works Cited page

See **Literary Analysis Rubric – 35 points**

Oral Interpretation

See **Speaking, Listening, and Viewing Rubric: Presenting a Literary Analysis – 36 points**

If you have any question, please email me at [htodd@smccmonroe.com](mailto:htodd@smccmonroe.com). Have a great summer!!