

## ENGLISH I PRE-AP SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

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Welcome to English I Pre-AP at Johnson High School! English I Pre-AP emphasizes the development of advanced skills in composition and literary analysis. It is designed to enable students to develop careful reading strategies and critical thinking and composition skills as preparation for the Advanced Placement exams on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade levels. That is, English I Pre-AP strives to have students analyze how an author makes meaning; it deals in elements of style analysis in the novel, drama, and poetry. To begin this process you are required to complete a summer reading assignment for English I Pre-AP.

Please obtain a copy of The Princess Bride: S Morgenstern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure by William Goldman.

**ANY EDITION WILL SUFFICE.**

*As you read this novel, consider the following:*

- **Literary Techniques:** The significance of the organization, word choice, imagery, tone, figurative language (personification, simile, metaphor, repetition, irony), or setting in a portion of the literary work. Examine the language and style—interesting or powerful words, use of dialogue, and length of sentences.
- **Characters:** The characters' actions, appearance, thoughts, manners, reactions of other characters to him/her, and why he/she is important in the novel. Does the character help to develop/further a theme?
- **Themes:** Recurring ideas or messages throughout the text.
- **Symbols:** A recurring object, person, or place from the story that signifies something greater than itself. Comment on what it symbolizes and its role in the story.

Your English I Pre-AP summer reading assignment will be a series of passage analyses. The purpose of the analysis is to record responses about the literature that you are reading. Responding helps you to read critically and encourages the habit of reflective questioning.

Analysis requires a focused idea, a WHAT. What is the author trying to emphasize - characterization, theme, or conflict?

- **Characterization** delineates personality type, motivation, internal beliefs/struggles.  
*For example:* Benvolio, as a peacemaker, serves as a foil to the ill-tempered Tybalt.
- **Theme** delineates a larger idea central to the text. This is more than a one-word main idea.  
*For example:* Homer explores fidelity, drawing a contrast between the expectations of men and women in Greek society.
- **Conflict** is more than an action/event; it shows relationships between the characterizations and/or explains.  
*For example:* In Jack London's "To Build a Fire", the protagonist's death is a result of a misplaced sense of superiority to the natural world.

**YOUR TASK** is to copy and explicate **THREE** passages from *The Princess Bride*.

1. Your first passage should reflect characterization.
2. Your second passage should reflect theme.
3. Your third passage should reflect conflict.

For each passage, write a short (7-10 sentences) analysis paragraph.

1. For the characterization passage: Identify the character; identify what traits about the character are emphasized; **explain how these traits contribute to the plot.**
2. For the theme passage: Identify the major theme of the passage and **explain how this theme helps the reader better understand the narrative.**
3. For the conflict: Identify the characters involved in the conflict, explain what the problem is between these characters, and **explain the underlying motivations for this conflict.** Go beyond the literal plot.

***You must use three different passages.***