



# VERNON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

## English Department

### Honors Program Summer 2009

Dear English 10 Honors Enrollees,

As you prepare to engage in the exploration of American literature at the Honor's level you are required to read the following novels and prepare the assignments as described below. Please read carefully and thoroughly: Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*.

**On the first day of school you will be tested on *Ethan Frome*.**

For the reading of *The Grapes of Wrath* you need to know that it is a novel that not only examines the Joad family's struggle during The Depression but also examines the society as a whole. This microscopic/macroscopic look at a historical period is effective but for our purposes you only need to follow the Joads. Therefore if you would like to skip the following chapters you may: 3,5,7,11,14,17,19,21,23,25,27.

We will discuss some important themes from *The Grapes of Wrath* the first week of school and then you will be tested on that novel.

You will also write a five-page typed essay in MLA format on Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. **This paper is due on the first day of school.**

**Here are some of the requirements for the paper:**

1. 12 pt. font setting; lines double spaced.
2. No title page, MLA style heading on left top of first page. Last name and page number on each page.
3. Work cited page if you use outside sources (Note: plagiarism has been a problem in the past please be exceeding careful to cite your sources)
4. Introduction paragraph that fully establishes the thesis and points of comparison

5. A conclusion that restates the thesis and establishes how you proved your points. While most paragraphs go from general to specific with transitions tying them together, make sure your conclusion goes from the specific to the general.
6. **A working comparison can mean both similarities and differences.** Do not be afraid to show the contrasting aspects of the author's point of view, topics, ideas, and structure
7. Please use quotations from the novels to help support your arguments
8. The essay must have a title
9. Avoid using first or second person pronouns
10. Quotations must be documented in MLA format (parenthetical/author's last name/page #/ no comma)
11. Use sophisticated transitions
12. Keep the verbs in present tense
13. Make sure to set up your quotes so they fit the text.

**Here are some possible points of comparison:**

1. **Historical comparisons between WWI and the Viet Nam War.**
2. **Relationships in war**
3. **Choosing to fight or choosing to leave**
4. **War as psychological chaos**
5. **The protagonists maturation process during war**
6. **The author's writing styles**

This essay must be derived from your own discoveries and analysis. While you may use outside sources, you are reminded to use the MLA format for citations. **Plagiarized papers, with any portion taken directly from any source, will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.**

Enjoy the stories as you engage in the lives of the characters. I look forward to hearing your insights and reading about your discoveries.

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