

Vernon Township High School
English Department
Honors Program
Summer 2009

Dear Student:

Welcome to English 9 Honors – a class that will prove to be both challenging and exciting! Before we begin our study of literature together in September, you are required to complete important assignments independently. The assignments include reading Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* and completing the written assignment below.

After reading the text, and in a formal essay of 3-5 pages, you are to compare and contrast the ways in which the protagonist(s) is “stuck between two worlds.” In your paper, define the two worlds, discuss what they consist of, and how, if at all, they affect the protagonist(s). Finally, be sure to comment on how the two worlds either help or hinder the main character(s) from maturing or “coming of age.”

Be sure to use events, characters, and quotations from the text to analyze the text and support your thesis. Do not summarize!

In addition to this paper, if you wish, you may want to keep a reading log of important characters, quotations, and plot developments. This log may be useful for class discussions and timed-writings. *The reading log is optional and will not be collected or graded.*

This paper assignment is due on the first day of school, **without exception**. In addition to the paper, there will be a graded class discussion as well as a timed writing on the novel in the opening days of school. Thus, it is important that you read the original novel thoughtfully and critically. *Using on-line summaries or an abridged version of the text in lieu of the text provided for you will not suffice.*

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