

**Pre-AP English 1 (8th grade ELA)  
Summer Reading Assignment  
Essay Assignment**

Welcome to 8th Grade Language Arts! Below you will find your Summer Reading Assignments. This work is due the first day of the new school year. If you are a new student to FSA you have 30 days to complete the assignment. Please follow all instructions and be mindful of presentation; each page should be typed in MLA format. Hard copies only will be accepted.

**Texts: Select only one from the following list:**

- *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell
- *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells
- *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer
- *The River* by Gary Paulsen

**Task 1: You must complete this assignment.**

Character List: **This is a handwritten assignment and will not be accepted if it is typed.** For the text you have chosen, you will keep a list of major characters including a thorough description and a quote from the text that you feel represents the character. You should have a minimum of 5 characters. Be sure to explain WHY the quote is representative of the character. Include the page number where you found the quote. Follow the format below to complete this portion of the assignment.

| Character     | Description   | Quote   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Atticus Finch | Atticus is the father of Scout and Jim Finch. Atticus is a lawyer in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama. Atticus believes in treating everyone with the utmost respect. He feels the courts are a place where all people should be treated equally. He wished to cure the town of Maycomb of a disease: racism. | <p>“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view . . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”</p> <p>This important snippet of conversation from Chapter 3 finds Atticus giving Scout the crucial piece of moral advice that governs her development for the rest of the novel. The simple wisdom of Atticus’s words reflects the uncomplicated manner in which he guides himself by this sole principle.</p> |

## **Task 2: Theme essay**

A theme is a lesson or message that the reader takes away from the story, It's never stated in the text, but the reader can infer themes by doing the following:

- Identify the story elements and diagram the plot of the story.
- Identify the subject of the story: What is the story about?
- Analyze the main character: How does the character feel?
- Summarize the story: Think about the story as a whole.

Pick 3 themes in the story that you have chosen and write a 5 paragraph essay analyzing the themes you identified in the story. Your claims should be supported with textual evidence. Your essay should contain an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs and a conclusion paragraph. Be sure to edit and revise your essay.

### **Final Notes:**

Please put forth your best effort on this assignment. It is very important that your teachers get an authentic representation of your writing abilities at the start of the year.

It is obvious when a student copies and pastes character descriptions or theme analysis from online sources including AI. Plagiarism will result in a grade of zero and disciplinary action.