English I Summer Reading Assignment:

All Classes

Mrs. Borland

English I CP and Honors  The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien (the book has been downloaded on our Website under the 9th grade Summer Reading tab)

This assignment will be due and the reading quiz will be given when you return to school this fall.

Read The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien. The books should be available at our local book stores, one of our public libraries, or online, but I have also included a file with the story in pdf form. After reading the book, complete the reading assignments. Complete the assignments using a notebook (Mead Composition). As you read, record the page and paragraph number next to an explanation of the passages you are asked to look for in the text. The purpose of these assignments is to have you interact with the text and boost your reading comprehension. The more effort you put into the assignment, the better prepared you will be for the reading quiz over the novel. The assignments will be due and the reading quiz will be given when you return to school this fall.

Creating Trails . . .

As you read your novel, keep a record of what is taking place. Make a trail so when you return to the novel when school starts, you can follow your notes. Mark specific descriptions of the characters, conflicts, and setting, along with important literary devices in a notebook. The trail you create should make a rereading of the story easier.

Establishing Territory (and looking for themes) . . .

1. A theme is an important message that the author is trying to convey about one of life’s truths. Choose a theme or themes from the list below. Record 3 to 5 specific passages in the text that convey this theme in a notebook. In the margin or the notebook, explain how each quote supports, enhances, or illustrates the author’s message.

Themes found in The Hobbit

- learning to accept responsibility for one’s self
- the need for/responsibility of a personal code of morality
- a moral code seen as a code that bonds society
- the importance of learning the art of selflessness

Noticing Style . . .
2. All good authors choose their words carefully. The great ones pay attention to the length of their sentences, the way they link phrases together, and their use of vocabulary and figurative language.

- Choose 5 sentences that stand out to you because of their diction (the author’s choice of words) or their structure. Mark the sentences in a notebook. Explain why you like them in 2-3 sentences.
- Define 25 vocabulary words in your notebook from the text that are unfamiliar to you.
- Identify the author’s use of metaphor, simile or personification throughout the novel.

Understanding Archetypes…

An ARCHETYPE is a reoccurring character, theme, etc., that can be found across cultures and time frames in literature. Archetypes include characters like the evil stepmother and themes like good vs. evil. This year, we will focus on an archetype known as the epic hero. The first one will be Bilbo Baggins.

- Use the handout on THE EPIC HERO CHARACTERISTICS to identify how Bilbo, the protagonist, begins as an unlikely hero and ends his journey as the hero everyone in Middle Earth needed. Fill in the chart as you read. (Note: All the characteristics may not apply to Bilbo.)

Please use black or blue ink and MLA form. I must be able to read what you have written.

MLA: Proper heading, skip lines, no writing on the back

I will be looking at grammar, mechanics, and usage.

*Remember that you are still under the Honor Code of HBCS. Your work should be your own.