

Honors English 9 Summer Packet

Dear Student,

Welcome to 9th Grade Honors English! We're so excited you chose to take an advanced course. Advanced courses are an opportunity for you to be challenged in all the best ways, and we're proud of you for not shying away from this kind of class. It might be scary, but please know, because honors has higher expectations, we can have more freedom to do the fun stuff that regular classes won't have time to do.

With that in mind, we need to make sure you're ready for us to dive in. First, some expectations for you. We expect you to be responsible for your own grade and behavior. That means:

- Meeting deadlines without a dozen reminders from your teachers
- Inquiring after your own missing work, not expecting the teacher to come find you
- Completing homework outside of class
- Using your time in class productively and respectfully.

Having to teach you these behaviors wastes your valuable time, so we would appreciate it if you come to class prepared to act like an honors student. Fun and freedom begins when everyone already knows the rules.

Now, to make sure we won't have to waste time in class going over regular material, we'd like you to use this packet to brush up on a few skills we'll be using frequently in 9th grade Honors English. Attached is a worksheet on grammar, main idea identification, figurative language, and summarizing. Nothing too tricky. For each page, we've used passages from your required summer reading text *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Complete the packet and bring it the first day of school, and your teacher will collect it.

Lastly, about summer reading. Everyone is required to read at least one book this summer, but you are also required to read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Please come to the first day of school prepared to take a test on this book by Harper Lee. The test will cover basic plot points and characters, and it is important you read this before you arrive so we can spend time studying the novel rather than reading it.

Excited to have you in Honors!

Grammar

Directions: Please read the following passage and answer the accompanying questions. As you read, mark any typos that you come across.

Talking to Francis gave me the sensation of settling slowly to the bottom of the ocean. He was the most boring child I ever met. As he lived in Mobile, he could not inform on me to school authorities, but he managed to tell everything he knew to Aunt Alexandra, who in turn unburdened herself to Atticus, who either forgot it or gave me hell, whichever struck his fancy. I but the only time I ever heard Atticus speak sharply to anyone was when once heard him say, "Sister, I do the best I can with them! It had something to do with my going around in overalls..."

Francis sat beside me on the back steps. "That was the best yet" I said. "Grandma's a wonderful cook," said Francis. "She's gonna teach me how." "Boys don't cook." I giggled at the thought of an apron in a Jem. "Grandma says all men should learn to cook, that men oughta be careful with their wives and wait on 'em when they don't feel good," said my cousin. "I don't want dill waitin' on me," I said. "I'd rather wait on him." "Dill?" "Yeah. Don't say anything about it yet, but we're gonna get married as soon as we're big enough. He asked me last summer." Francis hooted. "What's the matter with him?" I asked. "Ain't anything the matter with him." "You mean that little runt Grandma says stays with Miss Rachel every summer?" "That's exactly who I mean." "I know all about him," said Francis. "What about him?" "Grandma says he hasn't got a home—"

"Has too, he lives in Meridian" "—he just gets passed around from relative to relative, and Miss Rachel keeps him every summer." "Francis, that's not so!" Francis grinned at me. "You're mighty dumb sometimes, Jean Louise. Though, guess you don't know any better." "What do you mean?" "If Uncle Atticus lets you run around with stray dogs, that's his own business."

Questions:

List five capitalization errors and five punctuation errors

Capitalization example: the "d" in Dill should be capitalized

1. _____, 2. _____, 3. _____,
4. _____, 5. _____

Punctuation example: Meridian should have a period after in at the beginning of the last paragraph.

1. _____, 2. _____, 3. _____,
4. _____, 5. _____

Sentence Structure: Please find three examples of words that are out of order.

1. _____, 2. _____, 3. _____

Main Idea

The main idea is what the passage is mostly about. For example, a main idea of the Avenger's films could be: a true hero makes sacrifices.

1. Read the following two passages and either underline or **highlight** a sentence that you think contains the main idea of the whole passage.

Passage #1 –

When he gave us our air-rifles Atticus wouldn't teach us to shoot. Uncle Jack instructed us in the rudiments thereof; he said Atticus wasn't interested in guns. Atticus said to Jem one day, "I'd rather you shot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

That's the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it.

"Your father is right," she said. "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

Passage #2 –

I was playing in it with the spoon. "I thought Mr. Cunningham was a friend of ours. You told me a long time ago he was."

"He still is."

"But last night he wanted to hurt you."

Atticus placed his fork beside his knife and pushed his plate aside. "Mr. Cunningham is basically a good man," he said, "he just has his blind spots along with the rest of us."

Jem spoke. "Don't call that a blind spot. He'da killed you last night when he first went there."

"He might have hurt me a little," Atticus conceded, "but son, you'll understand folks a little better when you're older."

2. Explain what the main idea of each passage is in your own words.

Passage #1. _____

Passage #2. _____

Figurative Language

Directions: Please read the following passage and answer the accompanying questions.

Maycomb was an old town, but (1) it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the (2) streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square. Somehow, it was hotter then: a black dog suffered on a summer's day; bony mules hitched to Hoover carts flicked flies in the sweltering shade of the live oaks on the square. Men's stiff collars wilted by nine in the morning. (3) Ladies bathed before noon, after their three-o'clock naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum.

Write the letter of the device that matches its definition.

1. ___ When human characteristics are given to a non-human A. Alliteration
2. ___ The repetition of the letter at the beginning of a word B. Metaphor
3. ___ Comparing two things using "like" or "as" C. Personification
4. ___ Comparing two things *without* using "like" or "as" D. Simile

Use the list of four devices to answer the following questions.

- 1) Which device is "it was a tired old town" an example of?

- 2) In the underlined portion of (2) in the paragraph above, circle or highlight the letter that keeps getting repeated.
 - a. What letter keeps being repeated?

 - b. What device is this an example of?

- 3) What device is being used in the underlined portion starting at #3?
 - a. What are ladies being compared to?

Summarize

Directions: Please read the following passage where the narrator describes the family she must visit for Christmas. Then, answer the questions at the bottom.

(1) I suppose I should include Uncle Jimmy, Aunt Alexandra's husband, but as he never spoke a word to me in my life except to say, "Get off the fence," once, I never saw any reason to take notice of him. Neither did Aunt Alexandra. Long ago, in a burst of friendliness, Aunty and Uncle Jimmy produced a son named Henry, who left home as soon as was humanly possible, married, and produced Francis. Henry and his wife deposited Francis at his grandparents' every Christmas, then pursued their own pleasures.

(2) No amount of sighing could *induce* Atticus to let us spend Christmas day at home. We went to Finch's Landing every Christmas in my memory. The fact that Aunty was a good cook was some compensation for being forced to spend a religious holiday with Francis Hancock. He was a year older than I, and I avoided him on principle: he enjoyed everything I disapproved of, and disliked my *ingenuous* diversions.

(3) Aunt Alexandra was Atticus's sister, but when Jem told me about changelings and siblings, I decided that she had been swapped at birth, that my grandparents had perhaps received a Crawford instead of a Finch. Had I ever harbored the mystical notions about mountains that seem to obsess lawyers and judges, Aunt Alexandra would have been *analogous* to Mount Everest: throughout my early life, she was cold and there.

Summarizing is putting a longer passage into your own words using much fewer sentences. For example, each paragraph above can be summed up in one or two sentences.

1. Before you summarize, it's always a good idea to define words you might not know. Use google or a dictionary to define each of the bolded words.
 - a. Induce –
 - b. Ingenuous –
 - c. Analogous –
2. Summarize the first paragraph in one sentence:
3. Summarize the second paragraph in one sentence:
4. Summarize the third paragraph in one sentence: