

## Honors English I Summer Assignments 2010

Congratulations on being accepted into the Honors English I program! My name is Mrs. Rock, and I will be your Honors English I teacher during the 2010-2011 school year. If you have any questions or comments regarding the assignment, you can email me at [erock@geh.nj.k12us.com](mailto:erock@geh.nj.k12us.com).

In addition to the vigorous curriculum, English Honor's students are expected to complete summer assignments. During the summer of 2010, I challenge you to read and examine an American novel that explores the human psyche as well as human relationships. Please be aware that Cliff's notes, Sparknotes, and other internet cheats are not a substitute for reading the novels. In addition to the reading requirements, there are two written assignments to complete. Refer to the assignments below.

**Required novel:** I expect that the following novel to be closely examined and read by the first day of school. Avoid waiting until the end of the summer to begin reading and writing about the novel, for there is a direct correlation between performance and the end result. Also, please be advised that there will be a summer reading quiz during the first week of school.

The Natural, by Bernard Malamud

**Task:** You have three assignments for the summer. One is required during your reading, and the other two are reflective essays to be completed after your reading.

Read the novel carefully, **including the introduction**. During your reading, you will be completing logs to show your reactions to the text and also to help you discover subtle nuances in the writing. Attached is a sample reading log that not only includes analysis of the text but personal reaction and questions, too. Quotations should be complete and include page numbers. Only choose quotes that seem significant to the story or its characters; however, you may want to choose quotations that strike you in some way. Remember, textual analysis *looks beyond what is said to really try to discover the author's intentions*.

**Assignment One:** Each section/chapter of *The Natural* should be logged with one complete page. There are ten sections. (Technically, there are 11, but one is quite short). Therefore, you will come to school with 10 total pages of reading logs. (One page is equal to four entries). A blank reading log has been attached; you may make your own on your computer if you wish. Handwritten logs must be completely legible.

**Assignment Two:** Respond to the following essays in *at least* four well-written paragraphs. All essays must be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Ariel, double-spaced.

1. In *The Power of Myth*, Joseph Campbell says that, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." By extension, a hero is someone who also reflects the ideals and beliefs of the society in which they are created. Using this logic, explain whether or not Roy Hobbs is a hero, and what ideals/beliefs he reflects throughout the story
2. Choose one of the reoccurring symbols or themes in *The Natural* and discuss its significance throughout the novel.

**Due date: First day of school \*\*\*Copies of *The Natural* may be borrowed from the OHS Guidance Office** Of course, you're welcome to buy your own copy: )

Name: Emily Erickson  
 Mrs. Rock  
 English I Honors

SAMPLE ONLY DO NOT COPY

Reading Log: The Natural  
 Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Page(s) or Chapter	Quotation	Textual Analysis	Reaction/Questions
7/8	“He rolled past his shoe. Snake eyes. Try again, said Eddie, interested. Roy rattled the cubes. Snake eyes once more. Amazing. Again please. Again he rolled on the rug. Roy whistled. Holy cow, three in a row.”	Snake eyes is, in multiple dice games, looked upon as bad luck and the repetitive nature of the double ones could be foreshadowing to an unfortunately unlucky future for Roy.	Is Roy unnaturally lucky? Why is this moment significant?
8	“Are they loaded? Bewitched, Eddie muttered. I found them in the washroom and I’m gonna get rid of them pronto. Why? – if you could win all the time?”	Even though Eddie expresses a great fear of the “bewitched dice”, Roy encourages him to take the chance and keep them if they could bring him great fortune. Roy thinks too much of the positives in actions than the potentially horrible (fatal) consequences that will come of them. His disregard for instinct may land him in trouble down the road.	There seems to be a lot of issues with superstition...is that because of sports? Or the time period?
8	“...She held by a loose cord a shiny black hat box, which she wouldn’t let Eddie touch when he gathered up her things” “He mentioned the hat box again but she giggled nervously and said no”	There is something far too suspicious about this hat box. The nervous giggle is what sent me on the idea that the hat box is something almost dangerous. It could be merely a personal thing, however being so protective over, of all things, a hat box, is a bit extreme to me.	She seems bad from the start...
13	“...Both of these men had been shot under mysterious circumstances with silver bullets from a .22 caliber pistol by an unknown woman that police were on the hunt for.”	This suspicious woman is going to show up in Roy’s life sometime simply because why else would the author add this article? She is going after athletes and Roy just happens to be an up-and-coming baseball rookie. Look out Roy!	Wow. Who is next?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Rock

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Reading Log \_\_\_\_\_

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