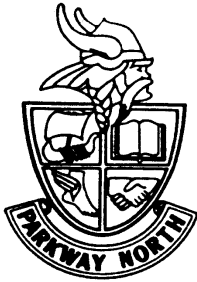


## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



## PARKWAY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

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## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

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May 2018

Dear Honors Sophomore Students,

Welcome to the fall semester of Honors English 2. The literature we read this semester is modern. Modern writers typically reveal doubts about traditional values and beliefs; they raise questions about our notions of truth and reality; and, through experimenting with new narrative techniques, they challenge assumptions about how a story is told.

Your summer reading assignment will help you appreciate the changes in modern literature. You will read two pieces: John Knowles' *A Separate Peace*, and J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. You will want to buy your own clean copies so that you can mark in them, or you can check them out of any library and mark on post-its. **In this course, it is expected that you will annotate your texts.**

These two works, though very different in tone and narrative technique, suggest some of the social and historical events that gave rise to modernism as they reflect the struggle for meaning in a universe that seems no longer to make sense. Read each work carefully and thoughtfully, marking key passages, keeping in mind

- The central questions and ideas in each work
- The questions and ideas that connect both works
- The different purposes, perspectives, and narrative strategies of each work.

### Sign-ups

Please sign up for the following accounts as soon as possible, preferably before you leave school this year. We would like to be able to contact you over the summer to give clarification and make announcements (and maybe even get to know you before school begins).

Please sign in to **Classroom** by going to <https://classroom.google.com>. Login with your school Google account, and join the class by clicking "Go to Classroom" and Click the + sign to add a class. The **class code is 5fei7i**. When you add the class, the class should say "Honors English 2 Summer Reading 2018." We will be posting more information here over the summer, and you will be notified by email if you've signed up and allow notifications.

### Which Edition?

Please purchase or borrow the editions listed below. The PNH bookstore has a few discounted copies available. I recommend you purchase them there before school is out so that you can make sure you have the correct edition. Check [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or Half Price Books for inexpensive used copies (We saw many for less than \$1.25).

- ***A Separate Peace***, Scribner edition ISBN 978-0743253970
- ***The Catcher in the Rye***, Little, Brown edition ISBN 978-0316769488

Note: If you choose to purchase another edition, you are responsible for renumbering your pages before our first discussion.

### Written Analysis (to be completed after you have read and annotated both novels)

- For **each** assigned book, you will choose two 4-page passages (94-97 and 156-159) to analyze, one from the first half of the novel, and one from the second half of the novel. For example, you might select pages 24-27 and 154-157 in *Catcher in the Rye* and pages 42-45 and 112-115 in *A Separate Peace*

#### *Ideas for Choosing the Passage*

- something essential is revealed about character or theme
- patterns can be traced to other parts of the novel
- passage seems essential to understanding the novel as a whole
- ideas presented seem parallel to or in opposition to the ideas presented in the other novel

For each 4-page choice, you will use the **chart** posted on Classroom (it is already available) to elaborate on your close-reading discoveries. Take your reader on a written tour of your annotations and your thinking about these passages. Use pages and key words as reference points, but your annotations should point to what you are discussing. As a title, please include the novel and the page numbers being discussed: *A Separate Peace* 94-97. Be thinking about passages that will lend themselves to addressing the following:

- How do diction choices create meaning?
- What images are created and how do they inform our understanding of the novel as a whole?
- Why did you choose this particular passage—what does it reveal about your understanding of the themes of the novel as a whole?

Along with the four charts, you will **write a 250-350 (short!) essay** about what intrigued you, puzzled you, or enlightened you from your readings. You should include both texts. Be specific, but do not summarize plot. Write what only you could write. The four charts and the short essay should be submitted to Google Classroom on (or before) August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Assessment:** The highest quality submissions will be clearly written, logically organized, purposeful in explanation, and thorough in discussion. Please proofread; make a good first impression. These should be your ideas and your ideas alone. If you use others' ideas (even if they are paraphrased or summarized) you will earn a zero for this assignment. Please, just avoid the wonderful worldwide web.

#### **Final Words**

Don't be afraid to use your own voice. The most interesting and successful entries are the ones in which the student truly engages with the text, gives responses that only he or she could give, and wrestles with the passage and its nuances. We expect that you have questions and that you try out multiple possible answers. We do not expect you to write like a professor. We do expect you to write with an academic 10th grade voice. Please, revel in the complexities of these texts; enjoy your questions, be glad you are not expected to know it all.

Please bring the annotated books on the first day of class and be prepared for thoughtful discussion. If you read the books in the beginning of the summer, you will want to review them before school starts in August—that's what makes annotating so helpful! Of course, we *hope* you read all summer long.

Have a great summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,



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Post general or clarifying questions under the assignment on Classroom—we will respond to them so that the whole class can see them.

