



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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College of Education
Model Laboratory School
Rodney L. Rhodus, Assistant Professor
rodney.rhodus@eku.edu · www.eku.edu

201 Donovan Building
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475-3102
(859) 622-3766 FAX (859) 622-6658

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Parents of Rising Freshmen:

Model Laboratory School's summer reading program requires each student entering a middle school or high school language arts class to complete a summer reading assignment. We believe this program will permit students to explore more literature than the time in class allows and that this will also encourage and promote more active reading on the part of our students. Research suggests that summer reading not only sustains reading skills among students, but that it enhances abilities.

To prepare for English I, students are asked to read John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* and Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Each student will also choose one additional novel from the attached list of eight choices. Each student will keep a reading log for each novel. The reading log should adhere to the following format: Summarize each chapter or section of the novel and respond to each chapter or section. Summaries should address significant characters, plot points, setting, symbols, and themes. Responses may include, but are not limited to, comments on the reading, questions about the reading, opinions about the reading, and reactions to the reading. Students may obtain the books from a bookstore, a library, or another source; each student is responsible for obtaining his/her own books.

In addition to the three reading logs, each student will write and turn in a short essay comparing (and/or contrasting) the use of symbols in *The Pearl* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. The essay should be two to three pages in length (double-spaced 12-point font, one-inch margins). Compare the authors' use of symbols in developing the themes of the two works. Use a highlighter to mark the thesis of the essay and a different color highlighter to mark the main points supporting the thesis. Be sure to proofread the final draft.

At the beginning of the fall semester, students will be given an assessment activity in addition to the reading logs and the essay (which are due at the beginning of the fall semester even though English I is a spring-semester class). The grades for these activities will count toward the grade for the first nine-weeks grading period of English I. Completion of the summer reading assignment is required for successful completion of the course.

Students should be encouraged to avoid procrastination. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Rhodus