UPPER CAPE COD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

English Department

To: Incoming Sophomore Honors students

From: Ms. Edwards & Mr. Hill

Date: June 3, 2016

RE: Sophomore Honors Summer Reading Project

Congratulations on making the decision to enroll in Sophomore Honors English for the 2016-2017 school year! The curriculum is designed to challenge you as a student and as a person -- and your first challenge comes with your Summer Reading assignment.

You will be reading two American literary classics:

* *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
* *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

We recommend reading the novels in the above order. In addition to the novels, you also will read the essay “This Amazing, Troubling Book” written by one of this country’s leading female African-American authors, Toni Morrison. Please read this essay BEFORE you begin *Huck Finn.*

We will spend time during the first two weeks of school discussing the novels, and the essay, in depth. Then you will have a test. :)

**ASSIGNMENT**:

* In addition to reading the essay and the novels, you will create a journal for EACH novel.
* The requirement for the journals are attached to this letter. They will be posted on the school’s website, [www.uppercapetech.com](http://www.uppercapetech.com), as well. Look for the Summer Reading Assignment icon or visit the school’s Library page listed under the Departments tab.
* You will also have a 10 question, open response test in September (date to be determined)
* This **MANDATORY** assignment equals **20% of your Term 1 grade**.
* Your journals are due **Wednesday, September 7, 2016**. Mark your calendar now so you don’t forget.

**QUESTIONS:**

Please feel free to send us an email at sedwards[@uppercapetech.org](mailto:msmith@uppercapetech.org) or ahill@uppercapetech.org anytime throughout the summer. You can also Follow us on Twitter at @ssedwards191 or @hillteaches.

Have a GREAT summer!

**Reading Journal Guidelines**

Your journals can be typed or handwritten in a notebook (neatly, in blue or black ink). Each journal has three distinct parts as shown below.

1. Introductory information as shown below (record all this information in order)

* Title of work and author
* Historical context, such as the year published, the literary period, or any historical or literary connections worth noting
* Protagonist(s) and description
* Antagonist(s) and description
* Brief (no more than 200 words) plot summary
* Key literary devices: the main two or three significant literary elements, such as symbols, motifs, allegory, allusions, point of view, etc. Don't just say, “The book has a lot of symbols;” list some, describe them, and note their significance in the novel.

2. Create a journal entry each time you read. As you read, use close reading techniques

to improve those techniques. Keep a journal in addition to any notes you may make in that process. Your close reading should prompt ideas for journal entries. Use the

following components in journal entries. Never summarize the text!! All journal

entries are analytical exercises.

* + Start with a relevant quotation from a chapter and comment on it. Why is it important? Extend beyond the text itself. Ex: maybe the passage is important for a character, but why is the quote also important to the novel? What does the quote mean to you?

* + Read between the lines. Sometimes it's what characters don't say that matters. Cite a passage and explain what's really going on. Be sure to show how you know it.

* + Analyze the development of a dynamic character: how is it she/he grows, learns, etc.?

* + Cite and explain any ironic passages. How does irony function in the work?
  + Cite a passage and analyze the author's style: choice of words, syntax, tone, etc. Why do you think the author used this style for this work? How effective is the passage at achieving the author's purpose?

3. A final overview: write 400-500 words addressing the below prompt. Provide relevant quotations from the novel that supports your viewpoint:

* + Personal reflection: what did you like about the novel and why? What did you not like about the novel and why? You may address any aspect of the novel (character development, tone, author’s style, theme, etc.)