

Hello Honors Juniors,

Welcome to 2025-2026 Honors English III! We have a great year lined up with an in-depth look at American classics and modern US literature. We will also focus on becoming better readers, writers, thinkers, and people.

That said, our course will be a great time to build a little community inside of our larger school. I'm really excited to be back in the classroom discussing literature with you 😊. Hopefully, by the end of the year, you will have had a great time, read and analyzed great literature, grown as a writer, and prepared for senior year literature and beyond. More than that, I hope that you take the ideas and skills of our course and utilize them to serve the Lord in your chosen paths.

This document has the summer reading and assignments listed. You will be reading and taking notes as needed for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Prepare for a novel multiple choice test when you return. You will also be writing an essay in response to *To Kill a Mockingbird*. All materials/assignments due on or before the first day of class.

Your checklist:

- ☐ Intro Prezi
- ☐ Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Test on the first day of class

See page 2 for assignment details.

****** In recent years, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been a book some people feel uncomfortable having in the classroom because of the nature of the deep south in racially tumultuous times and the language included in the book. However, Harper Lee, the author, wrote this book out of her own experience growing up in Alabama in the 1930s and 1940s as a way to expose and comment on the problematic nature of what was happening, particularly through the eyes of a child. The language and experiences portrayed are incredibly authentic to her experience and the time period. This book is an American staple, and we cannot erase history by erasing it from the classroom. However, we can use it as a way to learn from the past, see how things have progressed in almost 100 years, and discuss the importance of Imago Dei: seeing all people in the image of God and treating them accordingly. This novel deals with the way people are treated based on color, socioeconomic status, mental and physical ability, addiction, and age. It is an incredible piece of literature and will open the door for so many great discussions. Please be mindful of this as you embark on reading this American classic.

2025-2026: Honors English III
[To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee](#)

1. Explore this introduction [Prezi](#) to get familiar with what you are about to read and the context/background. You do NOT need to do the Quick Write at the beginning, but it's a good thing to just ponder/reflect on.
2. Read, annotate as needed, and prepare for a test during the first week back of class.
 - a. **Use the regular (not YA/abridged version) of this book.**
 - i. It is also available as an ebook, an audiobook, and free to borrow at the Library (note: the Libby app is a great, free option if you'd prefer the digital or audio).
 - b. The movie is great, but it's definitely not a substitute for the book! Just a heads up :)
 - c. The better your annotations/notes, then the better prepared you will be.
 - d. Prepare for a test during the first day of classes.
 - i. A loving reminder – we have access to the same internet that you do :). Keep that in mind if you're tempted to use summaries rather than read the actual book. Taking an honors class means you want to challenge your thinking...if you want the internet to do it for you, then your year's going to be a challenging one!
3. Essay -
 - a. HPCA uses the acronym GRACE to discuss the importance of Kingdom Diversity and Imago Dei. GRACE = Gender, Race, Age & Ability, Culture, and Economic status. These are some of the most common ways people are discriminated against. Pick more than one character to discuss the ways in which *To Kill a Mockingbird* displays and comments on people being discriminated against for these reasons. You may NOT only pick the topic of race. Explore how these themes play out in the novel and add to the treatment and development of different characters.
 - b. This is a lit analysis. Same rules as always apply - no first or second person, remain in present tense (even though the novel is set in the past). Make sure you identify the title and author in the introduction and end the introduction with a thesis statement. You should have at least 4 paragraphs but more is great!
 - i. Ideas - Each body could focus on one of the letters in the acronym and you could use characters to support each letter. OR you could pick one character to focus on and deep dive into for each body paragraph.
 - c. Requirements:
 - i. MLA format
 - ii. Works cited page
 - iii. 750 - 1,000 words in length
 - iv. [Rubric](#)

- d. You will SHARE your google doc with Mrs. Dixon and you will upload your paper to Canvas BEFORE class -- by 11:59pm the night before your first class period.
 - i. If you do not share your google doc with Mrs. Dixon, you will not receive credit for the paper.