**Congratulations and Welcome to Honors English 9!**

As the 2017-2018 academic school year comes to a close, thoughts of summer vacation are undoubtedly creeping into the minds of everyone. While I hope that break is both restful and enjoyable, I also would like to encourage some academics.

All of you have demonstrated that you are ready to challenge yourself in an Honors setting; therefore, reading over the summer was most likely on your schedule. Consider this letter the outline of an assignment, but more importantly treat the task like an opportunity to engage in an extension of an intellectual setting. The goal is not to clog your break with just another requirement but to open your mind to new thoughts and academic dialogue about literature and writing.

**Over the summer, I need you to read one book and two short stories. Of course, you are welcome to read as many of the novels as you like. (See the back page)**

**Book: *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Album (mandatory – feel free to borrow a copy from the library, a friend, or purchase a copy of your own)**

**Short Stories: You get to pick from the story sets – on the website I provide links. (mandatory - the goal is to read two short stories by the same author)**

**Choose Either:**

1. Frank R. Stockton – genre – fantasy, old world (kings/queens)  
   Titles to read: “The Lady or the Tiger?” and “The Griffon and the Minor Canon”

Or

1. Sandra Cisneros – genre – realistic fiction

Titles to read: “Eleven” and “Only Daughter”

1. **Activity:** Annotate - (this word means “to supply with critical notes”)
2. Annotate the short stories. You may feel free to use the margins of a printout or attach a piece of lined paper **(handwritten in blue/black ink is fine)**

Note: What is active reading? It is the process of reading and thinking –for enlightenment and not just to say you finished. Look for character descriptions, setting changes, emerging themes, important aspects of plot, and points you believe are interesting/important while reading. What makes up the author’s style/craft?

1. **Activity:** Essay – You will demonstrate your knowledge of literary analysis
2. Read the novel ***Tuesdays with Morrie***
3. Literary Analysis – What do you believe is Album’s main message or theme? **(Typed ESSAY illustrating how your theme is represented in the novel)**

**ALL READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE**

**THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

WEBSITE: Please get used to using the website below. Calendars, assignments and additional information will be added all throughout the year. Feel free email me with any questions regarding your summer work.

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<http://Conleysclassroom.weebly.com>

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I am often asked about a reading list. The ideology many students have is, as a Pre-AP course, you are in training over the next three years for a test that could result in college credit before you graduate. The more authors you know the more exposure you have to potential testing material. So I have compiled a list of books most frequently seen on the AP Literature Test.

**This is NOT mandatory**. I have this list simply because many students have asked for other books they should consider reading. The following 25 books have been mentioned numerous times on the AP Literature exam and are considered to be works of literary merit.

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

Pride & Prejudice – Jane Austen

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

The Secret Life of Bees – Sue Monk Kidd

David Copperfield – Charles Dickens

The Scarlet Letter – Nathaniel Hawthorne

Lord of the Flies – William Golding

The Awakening – Kate Chopin

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

The Old Man and the Sea – Ernest Hemingway

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde

A Separate Peace – John Knowles

The Alchemist – Paulo Coelho

East of Eden – John Steinbeck

The Memory Keeper’s Daughter – Kim Edwards

The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan

The House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros

Angel’s Ashes – Frank McCourt

All the Pretty Horses – Cormac McCarthy

Snow Falling on Cedars – David Guterson

Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald