

**Center for Communications**  
**Summer Reading List**  
**2015-16**

**Tenth Grade Required Books**

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| ◆ <i>Of Mice and Men</i>       | John Steinbeck   |
| ◆ <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> | Ernest Gaines    |
| ◆ <i>Firehouse</i>             | David Halberstam |

**Required Assignments**

1. Read each book thoroughly.
2. As you read the novels, you are to annotate your novels with post-it notes. Annotating is the act of taking notes within the text as you read. It involves marking the text with commentary regarding the author's content and style. **Annotation should not be limited to identifying an element; annotation should explain the significance of the technique or element and its contribution to the development of the novel's themes.** You should have a minimum of **50** notes per book.

**Possible areas of focus**

- ◆ Characterization
  - ◆ Point of view
  - ◆ Structure and organization of novel
  - ◆ Setting
  - ◆ Literary devices such as symbolism, motifs, foreshadowing, flashback, irony
  - ◆ Diction, detail, syntax, style
  - ◆ Look for patterns and label them
  - ◆ Mark passages that seem to jump out at you because they suggest an important idea or theme—or for any other reason such as an arresting figure of speech or image, an intriguing sentence pattern, a striking example of foreshadowing, a key moment in the plot, a bit of dialogue that reveals character, clues about the setting.
  - ◆ Mark things that puzzle, intrigue, please or displease you. Ask questions; make comments—talk back to the text.
3. For each book, write a letter to the author. In each letter, convince the author to change **one** thing about the book. Use specific reasons and support from the book to support your claim. Focus on just **one** area, so that you can develop your argument thoroughly with specific support from the text.

Remember, this letter is **persuasive in nature**, and you are only going to focus on only one element of each book. Consider the examples below as possible starting points for your letters:

- ◆ The conclusion of the novel
  - ◆ The portrayal of specific types of characters: mothers, fathers, children, men, women, friends
  - ◆ The realistic or unrealistic description of a certain historic event or movement
4. Your letters should be a minimum of two typed pages double-spaced.

**Students are expected to complete this assignment independently without use of external sources including friends, reference books, and Internet sources. Summer assignments are due Monday, September 14. Twenty points will be deducted each day that the assignment is late.**