

June 2, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Enclosed please find the summer Language Arts assignment for students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Temima High School in August 2011. This assignment is designed both to engage students' minds through reading and writing and to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

The 12<sup>th</sup> grade required summer reading book is *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy. Students must read the book and complete the reading assignments listed before the start of the school year. Assignments will be collected on the first day of class.

In addition, students should complete the reading for a second book of their choice and complete the assignment included in this packet.

If you have any questions or concerns before the start of the fall semester, you may leave a message for me at the school or contact me by email at [mschafstall@temima.org](mailto:mschafstall@temima.org). Students may also email me with any specific questions about the summer assignments.

Sincerely,

Melissa K. Schafstall  
Language Arts Teacher  
Temima High School for Girls

Language Arts 12

Part 1: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The first day of class after orientation week. In addition to the assignment listed below, you will probably be given some kind of in-class writing assessment on this date.

*The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy

**Annotation Assignment:**

As you read the novel, you should annotate – write notes/highlight in your book or use post-it notes if you prefer not to write in your book. You should annotate specifically for the following:

- 1) Examples of monetary transactions, and references to poverty and wealth.
- 2) Allusions to and symbols of the past (both historical and the characters' pasts)
- 3) Choose one of the following character pairs and look for similarities/differences: Michael Henchard & Donald Farfrae, Susan & Lucetta, or Elizabeth-Jane & Lucetta.

All of the topics listed above will be used for class discussion and student writing (including essays) in the fall.

When annotating your book, you must clearly mark which of the above items each annotation corresponds to. You may do this by using different colors of ink or highlighter (or post-it notes). For example, you could use a yellow highlighter for #1, green for #2, and pink for #3. You could also write all notes in blue pen but mark each annotation as either #1, #2, or #3. This will enable you to quickly pick out quotes for each item as we discuss them in the fall.

In addition, you should definitely annotate anything else in the book that you find interesting and/or confusing. Due to the nature of this assignment, you may use abbreviations to a reasonable degree. This would include using "&" for "and" and other widely accepted abbreviations, such as "w/" for "with" and "b/c" for "because." Do not use numbers to represent words, such as "2" for "to" or "4" for "for."

Note: Under no circumstances will I accept for credit a book that has comments/annotations written by another student, friend, relative, etc. You must use a clean copy of the book, and you will receive a grade for your book annotations.

Happy reading! I look forward to discussing this book with you in the fall.

Language Arts 12

Part 2: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The second week of classes – but I strongly suggest that you at least have the book read before school starts as I will begin assigning homework the first week of school.

**Reading:** Your choice.

Your independent reading book can be fiction or nonfiction, short or long. Please do choose a book that is appropriate for your reading level. Most importantly, it should be a book that interests you.

**Written Assignment:**

Write an essay of approximately 1 ½ - 2 pages in length (double-spaced typed Times New Roman 12) in which you discuss the relevance of your book in today's world. How do the ideas in your book ring true today?