



# George Washington High School

Course: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English 2017-2018

Teacher: Mr. Jake Ruddle

May 16, 2017

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

I'd like to take this time congratulate you on the successful completion of another school year. As 8<sup>th</sup> graders, I know the idea of moving up to high school next year is exciting, but it's also a time to think about the challenges and opportunities that the next four years will bring. Whether Honors English is your sole honors class or whether you're taking a schedule that includes AP classes, expectations and your responsibilities as a student will be higher as you start high school.

With that being said, the transition to high school should not be a scary time. As one of the teachers at George Washington whose schedule is focused on 9<sup>th</sup> grade, I make it my personal goal to make the transition fun and easy. My door is always open and I will help in any way that I can. What's important to remember, though, is that teachers are here to help you, not do the work for you. Your attitude and your work ethic will go a long way.

Overall I'm excited for the year to come. While I will miss having the current freshmen in class, it's very exciting to welcome a new class of students. English 9H is a reading/writing intensive course that will include various essays, projects, novels, short stories, and non-fiction. While I look forward to getting to know you, it is very important that you understand that when you walk into my classroom, you know that it's time for English. English 9H is an *Honors* class and it will be treated as such. Failure to complete assigned readings and assigned work will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to reach out and introduce yourself before school starts, please don't hesitate to do so. My email is [jruddle@mail.kana.k12.wv.us](mailto:jruddle@mail.kana.k12.wv.us) and I am usually able to respond to emails within 24 hours. Additionally, students and parents are encouraged to follow me on Twitter ([@mrRuddle](https://twitter.com/mrRuddle)) to keep up with what goes on in the classroom and watch for any announcements or updates.

Have a great summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr. Ruddle".

Mr. Jake Ruddle

**KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE READING ASSIGNMENT**

The following reading assignments have been selected for the 2017-2018 English 9H curriculum. All books on this list have been deemed appropriate for students at this level of education and maturity. However, the books on this list may contain elements of profane language (L), violence (V), sexual content (S), and adult situations (A) in varying degrees. Parents should consult the individual books directly to decide the suitability for their child.

- *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel [L, V, S, A]
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury [L, V, S, A]
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare [L, V, S, A]
- *The Odyssey* by Homer [L, V, S, A]
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee [L, V, S, A]
- *The Martian* (Classroom Edition) by Andy Weir [L, V, S, A]
- *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton [L, V, S, A]

These books, all very exciting, carefully selected, and thoughtfully integrated into lesson plans, are meant to be of educational benefit and value to your child. **If you wish to request an alternative reading assignment for your child, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to Ms. Williams, Ms. Patterson, or directly to Mr. Ruddle prior to the beginning of the school year.**

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I request that my child be given an alternative reading assignment to replace the following assigned book(s):

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My request is based on the following:

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I understand that this request must be returned prior to the beginning of school. I also understand that my child is responsible for completing all parts of the alternative assignment.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL | ENGLISH 9H  
SUMMER READING

The Summer Reading selection for English 9H is:

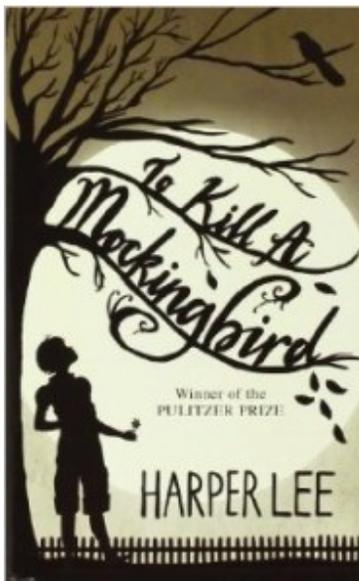
# *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

by Harper Lee

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a heavily circulated book and there are usually plenty of copies at locations like Books-a-Million and Taylor Books. Additionally, *To Kill a Mockingbird* can be ordered from Amazon.com or downloaded through apps like iBooks on your child's iPad. These formats are usually a little cheaper than buying from the store. I also have PLENTY of copies available at GW, so if you and your child want to stop by on the last day of school (24th) or Thursday the 25th to pick one up - that's fine.

If you are not able to purchase a copy of the novel, please send me an email ([jruddle@mail.kana.k12.wv.us](mailto:jruddle@mail.kana.k12.wv.us)) and I will help with obtaining a copy.

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**from amazon.com -**

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill A Mockingbird* became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic.

Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Now with over 18 million copies in print and translated into forty languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.