

2008 Summer Reading Assignment – English IV Honors/Standard

**\*\*NOTE: All rising seniors must complete BOTH assignments.**

Assignment #1: Read *No Exit* by Jean-Paul Sartre

**\*\*Most copies of *No Exit* are included in a volume with three other plays by Sartre. You are only responsible for reading and responding to *No Exit* (approx. 45 pp.).**

**Assignment for *No Exit*:**

PART 1 (3-5 pages, length suggestion assumes hand-written, but you may type)

- Complete a journal assignment in which you analyze the **themes, characters, AND setting** for the play. In other words, analyze what do you think the deeper meaning of the play is, what happens in the play, why the characters act as they do, and your reaction to events and characters in the play. Include personal response to the play (Did you like it? Why or why not?), as well as any connections that you find in the play to experiences from your own life.
- This assignment may be typed or handwritten. If typed, use Times New Roman 12-point font, and please double-space!
- The play is not written in acts or scenes, so as you are writing your journal, just respond to the events of the play as they unfold.
- Be sure to include any experiences you have, people you know or have known, or any observances you have made that in some way help you to understand why the characters behave as they do in the book.

**\*\*Please do NOT give more than a BRIEF summary of the play's plot. Your teacher has read it and already knows what happens in it.**

PART 2

- Choose ten quotes from the play that you find to be especially significant, and write a brief explanation (a couple of sentences) for why you chose each quote.

PART 3 (1 page, length suggestion assumes hand-written, but you may type)

- Write a one-page summary of the definition and major concepts of *existentialism*. Be sure to SUMMARIZE, not plagiarize. Include a list of sources of where you found this information.

DUE DATE: First week of school

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Assignment #2 Read *A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest J. Gaines

**Assignment for *A Lesson Before Dying*:**

- Complete a 2-3 page personal response journal. This journal should include your feelings, thoughts, and reactions as you read the novel. (length suggestion assumes hand-written, but you may type)
- The journal assignment should cover the novel from your perspective and answer the following questions: did you enjoy reading the novel? Why or why not? What did you like most and/or least about the novel? Would you recommend that other people read this novel? What did the novel make you think most about? Could you relate to it in any way?
- Please do NOT spend ANY time in your journal summarizing the plot. Your teacher has read the book and knows what happens in it. Instead, you should be reacting and responding to the events of the novel in personal way.

DUE DATE: the first week of school

