

May, 2009

Dear New Student,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to English II Honors for the 2009-2010 school year at Antioch Community High School. My name is Kathleen Beckman, and I will be your teacher in the fall.

As part of the course work for our class, you will be reading *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. This is the book that all incoming honors level sophomores will be reading. Please read and annotate the novel. Once you finish reading the book, **please complete both of the following assignments:**

- Choose at least five main characters from the book and assign a symbol for each. Write a paragraph for each symbol explaining why you assigned this particular symbol to this particular character. Allow space for a visual representation of the symbol. You will need to draw, paint, clip-art, sticker... (somehow) show this symbol. Try to make a metaphorical connection, not so much a literal one.
- Choose two significant quotes from each section of the novel to comment upon. You will need to type the quote (indicate the page number) and then type your response to the quote. You may choose to explain why this quote is important, make a personal connection to the quote, or comment on the literary devices used: foreshadowing, use of simile or metaphor, vivid description, etc... Each response should be at least five sentences long.

This summer assignment is due on the first day of class. All work is to be typed and presented in MLA format. We will most likely have a quiz on the novel within the first week of school.

Please take your time with this assignment. Be thoughtful and creative. English II Honors will be an intensive reading and writing class. I value the sharing of ideas, opinions, evidence and

collaborative learning. You will be developing your own “voice.” Please let your creativity and personality show in your work.

For our class, you will need to purchase a composition notebook. This will be your writer’s notebook for journal writing and reader’s reflection. The composition notebook is usually a black and white marble color and measures about 10 inches by 7 inches. These notebooks are usually on sale at *Office Max* sometime in August and run about \$1.50.

You will also need a folder exclusively for English class. I would also appreciate it if you could contribute a box of tissue to our class supply. If everyone does this, we should be set for the year! Please bring these supplies, along with your completed assignments, on the first day of school.

If you would like to contact me before school starts (questions, concerns, opinions, comments) that would be great! You can e-mail me at kbeckman@sequoits.com. I check my e-mail at least once a week – usually more often.

I am looking forward to meeting you in August. Have a terrific summer.

Mrs. Beckman