

## Honors English 11 Summer 2011 Reading

You will read one piece of non-fiction and two novels over the course of the summer break - *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster, *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman and *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. I know the question burning up your brain is, "Will there be any writing involved?"

Uh, duh.

This is Honors English so, yeah, there will be writing involved. And please keep in mind that these written responses are a way of introducing yourself to me, of proving you belong in the Honors class; work to the best of your ability. Dazzle me. Also, in order to continue in Honors English 11 once we reconvene in August, you must maintain at least a B average on the written assignments.

You will log on to turnitin.com and register for my class, Honors English Summer 2011 (class id **3820821**, registration password: mmarquart). In addition to the discussion board for *How to Read...*, there will be additional boards for *Princess Bride* and *Ender's Game*. Feel free to post your questions about what you're reading (like "Who's S. Morgenstern?" and "How old are these kids?").

For each chapter grouping of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you will respond to online discussion prompts on Turnitin. You will also have the opportunity to ask and answer questions. **You must respond to at least 10 of the postings with well-written and thoughtful replies consisting of approximately 150-200 words each with textual citation(s). Due date: July 1**

*The Princess Bride* is a cohesive novel with limited interruptions by William Goldman (as the author/"editor" and as S. Morgenstern, the fictional "real" author. I realize that doesn't make any sense, but once you begin reading it will). This story bends "reality," plays with time, and is a modern satire of the traditional fairy tale.

Before you read, think about elements common to all fairy tales, those original Grimm Brothers stories you are familiar with and their Disneyfied counterparts. After you finish the novel, choose one of the following prompts and compose a well written 3-4 page essay. Be sure to use textual evidence from the novel and film using proper MLA format. **This essay is due (uploaded to turnitin.com) by July 20. NB: Before writing your essay, make sure you have all the character names spelled correctly.**

1. **Watch the film version of "The Princess Bride". The screenplay was adapted by William Goldman. Some characters and events were omitted or changed. How did this effect the moral of the story?**

2. Watch the movie *Shrek* (the first one, NOT the sequels). In your essay discuss the point of this satirical fairy tale and the fairy tale elements it has in common with *The Princess Bride* (the novel, not the film).

*Ender's Game* is a science-fiction novel centered on the premise of young children being trained for warfare in outer space. The novel's protagonist is Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, who readers follow from ages 6 through 13.

**Essay Prompts: Choose one of the following and write a well-crafted and thought out 3-4 page essay. Be sure to use precise examples to support your thesis. So, yes you will need to use proper MLA format and have a Works Cited page.**

1. *Ender's Game* is often criticized for the way children are portrayed. Critics claim that children just don't behave like that. Card responds by saying that as a child he "never felt that [his] emotions were somehow less real than adult emotions and desires." Are the gifted children of the novel portrayed unrealistically? Explain.
2. Compare and contrast the burden of leadership laid on the shoulders of Ender and Frodo Baggins from *The Lord of The Rings* trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkein (the books, not the films).
3. Research the effects of warfare on children. Write about the parallels between these and the Battle School students in the novel. Explain.

**The first day of school, you will register for your class period on Turnitin. Your essay for *Ender's Game* is due that day.**