

English 10
2021 Summer Assignment

Ms. Wicks

mwicks5@schools.nyc.gov

English 10 is a course organized around the study of various genres of literature, including novels, non-fiction expository texts, drama, and poetry. The course emphasizes instruction in the development of clear argumentation, support, and structure of analytical paragraphs and essays. Students will construct multi-paragraph essays that respond to non-fiction texts, analyze literature, and persuade an audience. Analysis is a key skill that students will develop as they explore the significance of a piece of text and the elements of writing that create meaning. Students will continue to develop grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary skills.

PART 1: Grammar

Join our Khan Academy class and watch the assigned grammar review videos. Each video is under 5 minutes and most videos are under 3 minutes. You do not have to watch all of the videos at once. It is best if you pace yourself and work through the videos and unit quizzes little by little as opposed to completing them all at once. There will be ___ unit quizzes to complete on Khan Academy. Each unit quiz is under 15 questions.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/join/WDS923NC>

PART 2: Introduction Letter

Write a letter to me introducing yourself. The main goal of this assignment is to provide an efficient way for you to let me know you at the beginning of a new school year. You also get practice following directions, writing a formal letter, and organizing your thoughts. Please follow the format of the letter I wrote to you. Your letter will have a heading (place and date in upper right corner), a salutation (or greeting), body, complimentary closing, and a signature. The body of your letter should have four paragraphs organized in the following way.

Paragraph 1:

Introduce yourself. Tell me your name/age/date of birth , what schools you have attended , and what you like about school. Describe what you think are your personal strengths and weaknesses. This can relate to academics, sports, or creativity.

Paragraph 2:

Describe your family. How many siblings do you have? Have you and/or your family lived in any other countries or cities? Do you want to live/move to another country? If so, why and where? If not, why not? Do you speak any other languages than English? Do you have any pets?

Paragraph 3:

What special hobbies and interests do you have? Do you play any musical instruments? What sports do you like? What type of books & magazines do you like to read? What are your favorite books and/or plays? Name at least one thing you have done that you are proud of.

Paragraph 4:

What are your expectations for this class as far as what you learn and how you expect to do? What are your goals for your future? Where do you want to go to college? (If not college, what are your plans after high school?) What would be your dream job? Why is that your dream job? What are you going to do if that dream job doesn't happen (What is your backup plan)?

Paragraph 5 (optional)

Are there any other details you would like me to know about you? For example...Do you have any hearing or vision problems that I need to consider when making up a seating chart? Do you have any specific learning needs about which I should be aware?

PART 3: Reading & Analysis

You will have the option of reading either *Of Mice and Men* by John Stienbeck or *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. As you read your chosen book, take annotations on post it notes to help you keep track of plot/character developments, connections to possible themes and to help you reflect and respond to the following questions below. The annotations you make will be collected and reviewed with your question set. Your responses should be in complete sentences and well thought out. Your responses should have at least one piece of textual evidence to support your insights.

Of Mice and Men Questions	To Kill A Mockingbird Questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One aspect of John Steinbeck’s style is to create a setting so powerful, it can be viewed as a character. How did he use his beloved California to develop the characters and themes of the novel? Remember, setting is time, place, and objects. Give at least two pieces of evidence to support your insights. 2. What words did John Steinbeck use when developing setting and character? Why did he pick those specific descriptors? How else could he have described them? Discuss how he characterizes both Lennie and George. 3. Of Mice and Men is about relationships between people. Surface-level character traits can hide more complex traits. What can we see beyond a character’s actions? 4. How does Steinbeck develop the theme of loneliness? How does he develop the theme of friendship? Give at least one example for each theme. 5. How does the time period of the Great Depression make Lennie and George’s relationship more meaningful? How do you think their friendship would work out in today’s society? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is this novel entitled To Kill A Mockingbird and what character(s) best fits the mockingbird metaphor and why? 2. What kind of parent is Atticus Finch? Describe the values he seeks to instill in his children through the lessons he teaches Jem and Scout directly and those he teaches by example? Give at least one piece of evidence to show the lessons he teaches directly and at least one piece of evidence to show the lessons he teaches by example. 3. What are the big ideas or themes of <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>? Consider what the novel teaches about justice, prejudice, courage, attitudes towards those who are different from us? Discuss at least one theme and explain how at least one piece of evidence shows and supports this theme. 4. According to Atticus, “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view-until you climb into his skin and walk around in it”. How is empathy toward others demonstrated or learned by characters such as Atticus, Scout, Jem, Dill or Miss Maudie? Discuss at least 2 characters and provide at least one piece of evidence to support your insights of each character. 5. Atticus says to Jem that he wants his son “to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand”. How is courage defined in this novel? What character(s) best exemplify courage? Explain why.