**Grand Junction High School**

**1400 North 5th Street**

**Grand Junction, Colorado 81501**

***The Home of the Tigers!***

April 2017

Incoming Class of 2021

9th Grade Honors English Students

Welcome to 9th Grade Honors English. The Honors/AP English sequence has been created to meet the needs of those students who want to challenge themselves with a deeper study of language and a deeper understanding of literature and nonfiction. The Honors English program provides an enhanced approach and a more intense course of language study.

Incoming freshmen students must read the novel ***Rocket Boys***by Homer Hickam, Jr. before the first day of class. As you read, you will complete a double entry journal. (See next page). The purpose of the double entry journal is to connect the events in the novel to your own experiences and/or knowledge base. By completing a double entry journal, you can delve into the novel on a deeper level. The expectation is that you find a passage every 15-20 pages, record the passage and page numbers, and make a reflection in your journal. This means that you will have between 19 and 25 entries and reflections by the time you are finished. The journal is ***not*** a summary. It is a response to the novel based on the reader’s experiences, knowledge, predictions, and inferences. Be mindful of how events advance the plot or develop a character. This journal may be single-spaced typed or neatly handwritten. Messy journals will not be accepted and will be returned to be redone. The journal will be due the first day of Honors English class.

There will also be a short quiz over the novel on the first day of Honors English.

Have a great summer. See you in August!

GJHS Honors 9 teachers

Carla King

Mariah McCune

Megan Read

**Grand Junction High School**

**Honors Composition Literature 9**

**Summer Reading**

**Double Entry Journal**

The Double-Entry Journal strategy enables students to record their responses to text as they read. Students write down phrases or sentences from their assigned reading and then write their own reaction to that passage. The purpose of this strategy is to give students the opportunity to express their thoughts and become actively involved with the material they read.

During and/or after the reading of a text, students use the Double-Entry Journal to demonstrate how they make connections with the text.

* In the first column (column on the left), students should choose a quote or situation from the text that they can relate/react to.
* In the second column (column on the right), students should record their thoughts or reaction.

Students reinforce the fact that the thoughts/reactions they record should make a connection between the text and themselves (text-to-self), another text (text-to-text), or the world (text-to-world).

**Example of Double Entry Journal**

**Text Siddhartha by Herman Hesse**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key event, idea, word, quote, concept, or paragraph** | **Reflections/Connections** |
| p. 97 “Whither will my path yet lead me? This path is stupid, it goes in spirals, perhaps in circles, but whichever way it goes, I will follow it.  He was aware of a great happiness mounting within him.  Where does it come from, he asked himself? What is the reason for this feeling of happiness? … How I hated the world of riches, carousing and playing! How I hated myself for remaining so long in that horrible world! How I hated myself, thwarted, poisoned, and tortured myself, made myself old and ugly. Never again, as I once fondly imagined, will I consider that Siddhartha is clever.” | Siddhartha continues on his journey of self. I am surprised that he stayed so long in that world. He is like a teenager who is trying to find the best path but has been lured by material things and excitement. Hesse continues to surprise me by taking Siddhartha on paths that seem to be in total contrast to his “previous” life. How is his spiral different from a circle? Govinda told Siddhartha that his life was a spiral. I wonder if the mention of the spiral means that Siddhartha will soon be meeting Govinda again. |