

ENGLISH II HONORS/ ENGLISH II HONORS GIFTED

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10th grade Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Students,

Welcome to your sophomore year at DASH! Congratulations on completing your first year and for those new to DASH, welcome! Whether you're new to our school or have been with us since 9th grade, I'm thrilled to be your sophomore teacher and start a wonderful new year together. My name is Ms. Garcia and I will be guiding you through the 2025-2026 school year. As we kick off the summer break, I want to ensure you are prepared for the upcoming year. Below you will find your summer reading list and assignments. These tasks will not only keep your minds sharp but also ignite your imagination and curiosity. Complete the assignments described below, assignments must be printed and submitted physically **on our first day of class.**

- Common Sense by Thomas Paine
- A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Part 1: Active Reading and Focused Annotation (for both texts):

Your first task for your summer reading is to practice actively annotating a text. Read both books with a pencil/pen in your hand, but please remember to only markup materials that belong to you. If your copy of either book is borrowed, annotate using post-it notes or tracking specific lines (use quotation marks when copying text) by page numbers on a separate piece of paper.

Annotation Focus:

Common Sense	A Midsummer Night's Dream
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly mark and summarize the key reasons Paine provides for the American colonies to separate from Great Britain. Write down what his core grievances and justifications are. • Identify and mark instances where Paine uses: Ethos (appeals to credibility or character): How does Paine establish his authority or connect with the reader's sense of right and wrong? Pathos (appeals to emotion): Where does Paine try to evoke feelings like anger, fear, hope, or patriotism in his audience? Logos (appeals to logic and reason): Highlight Paine's use of facts, evidence, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark instances where Shakespeare uses specific literary devices (e.g., dramatic irony, soliloquies, asides, symbolism) to enhance the meaning or style of the play. • Pay close attention to the structure of the play (e.g., the transitions between the Athenian court and the forest) and how it contributes to the overall effect. • Pay close attention to how the use of prose vs poetry changes throughout the play, and how that impacts the reader. • Identify and track the development of key themes such as love, illusion, order vs. chaos, and the nature of reality. • Note how these themes are explored through the characters' actions, dialogue, and experiences.

<p>and logical reasoning to support his claims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note and label specific rhetorical devices Paine employs, such as: Analogies and Metaphors: Where does he make comparisons to illustrate his points? Rhetorical Questions: Where does he ask questions not for answers, but to provoke thought or emphasize a point? Repetition: Are there any words or phrases he repeats for emphasis? Exaggeration (Hyperbole): Does he overstate anything for effect? Understatement (Litotes): Does he deliberately downplay something? Pay attention to how Paine organizes his pamphlet. How does he introduce his arguments, develop them, and conclude? Note the different sections and their purpose. Identify any underlying beliefs or assumptions Paine holds about: Government: What is his ideal form of government? What are his criticisms of monarchy? Society: What are his views on the relationship between individuals and society? Human Nature: What does he seem to believe about the inherent nature of people? Mark any particularly powerful or memorable phrases or sentences. Describe Paine's overall tone (e.g., passionate, logical, urgent, persuasive). As you read, consider the historical context of the time. How might the events and prevailing sentiments of the era have influenced Paine's writing and his audience? For complex or crucial sections, try paraphrasing Paine's arguments in your own words to ensure you understand them fully. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight examples of figurative language (e.g., metaphors, similes, personification) and analyze how they contribute to the mood of specific scenes. Consider how Shakespeare's language creates a sense of enchantment, confusion, or humor. Identify and annotate instances of rhetorical devices, such as repetition, antithesis, and rhetorical questions. Analyze how these devices are used to persuade, emphasize, or create dramatic effect. For particularly complex passages, practice paraphrasing the content in your own words. This will help you ensure that you understand the meaning.
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Bring your annotated copy of each book to our first week of classes.

Tip: Think of annotations as a map to help you remember important and significant events, words/quotes and ideas that you gathered during your reading. This way you will not have to reread entire sections, instead your marginal notes will help you efficiently analyze a text.

Part 2: Comparative Analysis: Perception and Reality

Thematic Essay (2 pages): Comparative Analysis: Examining Power and Human Nature

Write an essay that explores the themes of power and human nature as they are presented in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and how these ideas resonate with or differ from the perspectives offered in *Common Sense*.

Consider the following points, ensuring you explicitly connect *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to your *Common Sense*.

- **The Nature of Authority and Legitimacy:** How does Paine argue for legitimate political authority? How does this contrast with the different forms of authority presented in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (e.g., Theseus's ducal power, the magical power of the fairies)? What makes authority just or unjust in each text?
- **The Role of Reason and Emotion in Human Affairs:** Paine appeals to reason in his arguments for independence. How does this contrast with the portrayal of human behavior driven by passion, illusion, and the supernatural in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? Does either text suggest a balance between reason and emotion?
- **Social Order and Governance:** Paine discusses the principles of good government and societal organization. How do the different social structures and attempts at order (or the disruption of order) in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* compare to Paine's ideas?
- **Human Rights and Freedom:** Paine champions the rights of individuals and the pursuit of liberty. How do the characters in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* experience freedom and constraint within their respective social and magical realms?
- **The Power of Language and Persuasion:** Analyze Paine's use of rhetoric to persuade his audience. How does Shakespeare use language (poetry vs. prose, rhetorical devices) to influence the audience's understanding of power dynamics and human motivations in the play?

Paraphrasing and Interpretation: Demonstrate your ability to accurately paraphrase complex passages from both texts and explain how those paraphrases contribute to your interpretation of the themes.

Ensure your essay includes specific textual evidence from both *Walden* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to support your claims.

Include the page number(s) of the novel where we can find your selected scene and the word count of your essay at the end of your paper.

Your essay should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1" margins. Make sure to write your full name (as it appears on school records) on the upper right corner of your paper.

NOTE: Papers that are plagiarized (copied from others, derived largely from Spark Notes, Cliff's Notes, or similar sources, or which lack attribution of sources) will receive an automatic grade of zero (0).

During the first week of school, students will be provided with Ms. Garcia's class code for TurnItIn.com (antiplagiarism application) and will be required to submit this written assignment through that platform (in addition to turning in a print copy to Ms. Garcia at our first class) for a plagiarism check.

Tips for Success:

- Start reading early!
- Engage actively with the texts.
- Take notes and record your thoughts as you read.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- For Shakespeare, watching a good performance can be very helpful.
- Have fun!

Have a Wonderful and Amazing Summer!