

Summer Reading Assignment

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Dear Rising 9th Grader,

I hope you have a wonderful summer! To assess your summer reading of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, you will reflect on one of the societal issues in the novel. This American classic explores trials of growing up, prejudice, and courage. The innocence of 8-year-old tomboy Scout Finch fades as she encounters racism and ignorance in the Depression-torn South. Please note that this novel contains language that reflects the racially divided climate during the 1930s. As we've seen throughout history, these themes of prejudice and injustice have remained in our world. Thus, I would like you to make connections between the novel and what is happening in the news, social media, or in your own life. **This assignment is due in class on the first day of school.** You may alternatively email this assignment to Mrs. Curley before the due date.

Sincerely,

The PCA English Department

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Curley at glorianncurley@plymouthchristian.org

Write an essay on the following:

How is the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* still relevant today?

Consider one or more of the following

topics:

- Prejudice
- Racism
- Equality
- Fairness of America's legal system
- Injustice
- Racial profiling
- Education system
- Parenting
- Social hierarchy
- Social status
- Poverty
- Women's rights
- Gender stereotypes
- Growing up
- Childhood innocence

In your essay, make connections between the news, social media, or your life and one or more of the themes above. This essay should be in MLA format. 12pt font, double spaced, Times New Roman font. Two page minimum, no maximum. Please use formal language, but you may use "I" or "me" if you have a personal example. Please refer to [Purdue OWL](#) for MLA formatting help.

Purpose: This essay is to assess your writing skills. Your teacher will use this essay to evaluate areas of strength and identify areas that need growth. Your teacher will evaluate how you organize your essay, your focus, your grammar, and the sophistication of your arguments.

Grading: Completed essays that answer the question provided and show evidence that the student has read the book will earn full credit. Again, this is an evaluative tool and meant to be an assessment of student writing.

The Cool Part: If you complete your reading and turn in your summer reading essay, you will start your year with an A!