

OVERVIEW

At MTHS, independent reading outside of class is required of all English 9 Honors students. To meet this requirement, you must read at least *three approved books* from either the College Board’s list of “101 Books for College-Bound Students,” the Battle of the Books list, or other books *only with permission*.

You can find the College Board book list and the reading contest list posted in the English 9 Honors section of Mr. DeMiero’s website at www.teachfreespeech.com. Look for the “Independent Reading Assignment” blog post in the English 9 Honors section.

BOOK No. 1 REQUIREMENTS

- You *must not have* read the work before
- You must regularly post comments about the book on our Collaborize blog site (linked to our class website at www.teachfreespeech.com). See below for posting requirements.
- You must submit a *minimum* of **three** posts about your book, *plus* a minimum of **three** posts replying to other students’ posts about their books on Collaborize.
- Although there is a deadline for this project, you may choose to complete the assignment earlier.

BOOK No. 1 POSTING OPTIONS

You must make regular posts about your book on the appropriate blog page on our class Collaborize site. Options for posts about your book include:

- **Basic Overview:** You could simply submit a post that covers the basics about the book. This is often the best first post to make to let others know about the book.
 - Title
 - Author
 - Setting
 - Main problem/plot
 - Main characters
 - Author’s message/theme
 - One particularly memorable scene and why it is significant
- **Literary Devices:** You may focus on a specific literary device that is being employed in the text you’re reading. In your post, you may analyze how effective the device is being used by the author. For example, perhaps metaphor and simile are being used a great deal by the author you’re reading, so you may submit a post that analyzes whether the use of metaphor or simile is effective.
- **Plot Updates:** As you read your book, you may make periodic posts about the status of the plot elements in the book – what’s going on, who’s doing what, etc. – as if you are reporting on the events of the book much like a journalist would.
- **Other:** You may suggest your own idea for a creative post, but please propose your idea to Mr. DeMiero before doing it.

BOOK No. 1 ASSESSMENT

Your grade will be based on your consistent participation on the Collaborize site and the quality of your posts.

BOOK No. 1 DUE DATE

The due date for Collaborize posts to be finalized is Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 by midnight.

SIGNING UP FOR COLLABORIZE

It’s easy to sign up for our Collaborize site. Go to <http://demiero.collaborizeclassroom.com> and click on “Register now.” You will be asked to enter your first name, last name, a screen name, and an e-mail address. You will then be asked to enter a unique password two times, a validation code and then click a check box indicating you agree to the Collaborize terms of use. If you already have an account, enter your e-mail address and follow the directions to have your account added to DeMiero’s class account.

IMPORTANT: Please, use your *real first and last name* when you sign up. Also, please enter a simple, logical screen name that is easily identifiable, such as your *last name and first initial*. In other words, my screen name would be “DeMieroV” using this method. It’s critical that you have a simple, logical screen name so that other students can identify you and your posts.