

English I Honors  
Summer Reading Project 09-10

**Directions:**

You will have a choice of three projects to do based on your summer reading. Please remember that your project must be based on Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck or Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn, and may not be based on the book of your choice.

This project is due Monday **September 14 (EVEN)** and Tuesday **September 15 (ODD)**

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**Option #1: Theme in a Bottle**

1. A character from your novel has decided to send a message in a bottle to shore and express what he or she has learned from his or her experiences to help others understand important life lessons.
2. Materials needed
  - bottle (large plastic soda bottles work well)
  - construction paper
  - scissors, rulers, ribbon
  - stickers, glitter glue, tissue paper, glue sticks or rubber cement
  - markers, crayons, colored pencils
3. Decorate the bottle with symbols that relate to the main character's message and to the theme of the story. For example, Curley's Wife in Of Mice and Men might have a movie reel on her bottle as she wanted to be an actress.
4. Write a letter from the main character's point of view. The letter should express the main character's feelings about the life lessons he or she has learned throughout the course of the story. The letter needs to be typed.
5. Be sure to include information about setting, characters, conflict, plot, and theme in your letter.

**Option #2: Letter to Teacher**

This letter should be **at least one typed page long** and include the following:

1. Give the title, author, and a brief summary of the book's plot, setting, characters, conflict, and theme.
2. Choose one character that you liked or disliked most in the book. Describe this character, and explain why you felt the way you did about this character.
3. How did this book compare to other books you have read. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
4. Tell the teacher about yourself as a reader. For example:
  - When you come upon words that you do not know, do you try to figure them out from the sentence; do you look them up in the dictionary or do you skip them.
  - Do you find there are parts that you reread to help you better understand the story?
  - Does the author's word choice keep your interest?
  - Are your interests, skills, or habits changing in any way? What, if anything, is surprising to you about your reading?

**Option # 3: Rap, Song, or CD**

You may write a rap, song, or make a CD in response to the story.

If you are making a rap or song:

1. Choose a familiar tune or beat
2. Write the lyrics or verses. These need to be typed.
3. Be sure to describe the setting, character, conflict, plot, and theme of the story in your rap or song.

If you are making a CD:

1. Make a CD of at least 4 songs that each reflects some aspect of the story you read. This could be a character, a theme, the setting, etc.
2. For each song, please write an explanation of why you chose that song and why it is representative of that aspect of the book. Be Specific! Your explanations must be typed.