

**June 2009**

**To: Incoming Accelerated Sophomore English students and their parents**

**From: Accelerated English teachers**

All students going into Accelerated English for the 2009-2010 school year will be required to read two books AND complete an additional written assignment.

Students may borrow the books from a public library or purchase them from a bookstore. We have asked local bookstores to stock these books for our students. Choose two of the following three novels: *To Sir, With Love* by E.R. Braithwaite, *Funny In Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas and *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. You may also see Ms. Savinar in room 350 before the end of the school year or Mrs. VonStockhausen in the Main Office during the summer to borrow a book. You will be tested on the two novels read during the first week of school.

**Written Assignments:**

1. Chapter one from the poetry book *Sound and Sense* directions:

Go to the Pioneer website. Click on Accelerated Poetry Assignment. Read all of chapter one. Complete all questions for all poems in this chapter. Your written responses must be in full and complete sentences, typed and printed for the first day of school. Each response should be a minimum of three sentences, but five to eight are suggested for completeness.

2. Either type or cut and paste the following into Google Search:

NEWS COLUMN

CONTROVERSY OVER HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS BILL SPURS DISCUSSION  
ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO EDUCATE THE WHOLE STUDENT

or cut and paste this link in your browser

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/pressrelease.asp?party=1&pressid=295&memid=10218> ]<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/pressrelease.asp?party=1&pressid=295&memid=10218>

**Write a paragraph for each of the following questions.**

- 1) What is the purpose of this article?
- 2) What problems did the author attempt to address?
- 3) What solutions did she try to legislate?
- 4) Why was she not successful in passing her legislation?
- 5) Do you agree or disagree with her solution?

3) The short story you are required to read is called “The Oblong Box”, by Edgar Allan Poe.

Cut and paste the following link in your browser to find the story:

<http://poe.thefreelibrary.com/Oblong-Box>

Answer the following in complete paragraphs. Paragraphs at the Accelerated level are between 2.5 and 5 inches long, double spaced, typed using Helvetica or Times, 11 point font.

- 1) What is the plot of the story?
- 2) Describe the narrator: his personality, his behavior and other qualities you see in him based on his narrative.
- 3) What is the climax of the story? (At what point does the story change directions from rising to falling action?)
- 4) Describe the writer’s style. Consider word choice, tone, figures of speech, sentence length, and pace of story telling.
- 5) Which part of the story stands out to you and why? Chose one: plot, setting, characters or writing style.

All writing must be turned into turnitin.com. Information coming on that website and how to upload papers.

Please sign the form below to indicate that you have read this letter, understand the assignments, and will do the assignments. If you have any questions, please feel free to come by our classrooms, leave a note in our mailboxes, or call us at 535-6310. Please note that Ms. Savinar will be out of the country from June 13th to July 13th so please allow a delay in responding if you contact the school during this time. Please detach the form below and return to your current English teacher by May 18. You can email Ms. Montelibano at [terrymontelibano@mac.com](mailto:terrymontelibano@mac.com) over the summer.

CUT OFF AND RETURN!!

Students and parents please sign to indicate that you understand the summer reading requirements for Accelerated English. Please return by May 18.

Student's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: