

Wachusett Regional High School English Department
June 2019

Summer Reading Assignment for Students Entering English 9 Honors

Nothing helps students succeed in school more than the ability to read well. Wachusett Regional High School encourages students to read – both in and out of school – and to share their reading with family and friends. We believe reading is a valuable and worthwhile way to spend one's time.

For their summer assignment, students enrolling in English 9 H will read one novel and a short poem before writing a rough draft of an essay responding to a prompt. This draft does not have to be in final form. Students must bring the draft to their English 9 H class the first day of school. The drafts will be used the first week during English 9 H classes to introduce students to the high-school writing process and to the types of analytical writing expected throughout their high school years.

Assignment: All students entering English 9 Honors must read the novel, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, and the short poem, "I Stood Upon a High Place," by Stephen Crane (below). We encourage students to read the poem several times – before starting the novel, while reading the novel, and after completing it. We encourage them to think about the deeper message of the poem, especially as it relates to the themes of the novel.

Writing Prompt: After finishing the novel, students must write a draft of an essay analyzing the ways both the poem and the novel present a similar view of humanity. Students should use details from the novel and the poem to support their ideas.

The draft should be approximately 200 to 300 words. Under no circumstances should it fill more than two double-spaced typed pages. Teachers will collect the drafts the first day of school.

"I Stood Upon a High Place"
by Stephen Crane

I stood upon a high place,
And saw, below, many devils
Running, leaping,
and carousing in sin.
One looked up, grinning,
And said, "Comrade! Brother!"