

To: Prospective students for English 9 Honors at CSDHS

From: CSD English Department

RE: Required entry reading for honors course

In order to be selected for enrollment in English 9 honors at CSD students have to commit to reading two novels and writing reaction journals about each one. The required books are: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *The Education of Little Tree* by Forrest Carter. Books can be purchased through the internet (Half.com. - a part of Amazon.com - is a good source for reasonably priced used books) or directly at *The News Center* in Easton. Entry reading journals giving your reaction to the books are due on the first day you come to English class in August.

Reaction journals for **each** book are to be 2 typed or clearly written pages and need to show that you have done a close reading of the book that covers the following 4 topics: **Plot** (major events from throughout the story) **Setting** (place and time of the story) **Characters** (major personages in the story including a discussion of the narrator) and **Theme** (message or major truth about life that you get from the story). **Also**, the journals should conclude with a 1-2 page essay comparing and contrasting the two books. This concluding essay should detail **your own reaction** to the books (what you liked/disliked about one or both and why). Journals for both books should be submitted in either 1 notebook or 1 set of bound pages. These journals will be graded and will constitute your first major grade for English 9. In addition, there will be a written test about each book during the beginning weeks of the semester. Enjoy your reading and we look forward to meeting you in English 9 Honors!

I understand the entry reading requirements for English 9 Honors.

Student name (print) _____ Date _____

Student signature _____