

Timber Creek Regional High School
English I Honors
Summer Reading Assignment
2009

Congratulations! Everyone at Timber Creek High School welcomes you into the English Honors Program. We hope you have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to meeting you in September.

All the students at TC have summer reading assignments. Your novel is *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. The setting is New York in 1902, and the book tells about the Nolan family: father, mother, daughter (Francie) and son (Neely).

Sometime in September you will be expected to take an objective test and an essay on the novel. Listed below are some suggestions on how to approach the assignment.

1. Buy the book now at any bookstore. If they don't have it in stock, it usually takes about 2 – 3 weeks to get it. The paperback costs about \$14.00 plus tax. I encourage you to buy your own copy so you can write in it. If you would like to borrow a book from Timber Creek, copies will be available in the main office beginning July 1.
2. Begin reading 20 pages a day (including Saturdays and Sundays) on July 15. If you read a page and don't understand what you read, reread the page again and again until you understand the idea and not just the words.
3. The novel is divided into chapters (56) and books (5). One of the purposes of reading is to increase your vocabulary. The vocabulary portion of your test will be from Book 1, chapters 1 – 6 (54 pages). Circle every word you do not know. When you have finished reading your 20 pages, get a dictionary and look up the words. Match the meaning to the context of the sentence. For instance, on the first page you will find some of the following words: serene, somber, Shenandoah, longing, shafted, and recalled. Do you know the meaning of any or all of these words? If not, circle the words and write the meaning above the word or in the margin.
4. Keep an index card for each character, especially the four Nolan members. When you read something about the character, write it on the index card. For instance, you may learn a character's age, personality trait, best friend, etc. These descriptions do not have to be in a sentence.

If you follow these steps, you will be able to participate in a classroom discussion before the test. Also, these study tips will help your review. There is a shorter version of these directions on Timber Creek's web site.

Have a great summer!

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