

DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. Box 1888 ♦ 1670 Hwy 88 ♦ Minden, NV 89423

(775) 782-5136 ♦ (775) 782-7039 – Fax

Marty Swisher, Principal
Tom Morgan, Assistant Principal

Dave Pyle, Assistant Principal

Summer Reading for Honors British Literature students

Students enrolled in this course are expected to read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and *Gulliver's Travels* by Swift. Students are expected to read authentic (not abbreviated) versions of each text in order to explore diction, syntax, and style in addition to simple plot development and characterization. My expectations are that students have not only passed their eyes across the pages to say they understand the plot of these works, but also that they have given **sufficient thought** to the composition and purpose of the works. I recommend that students buy their own copy and annotate it, using both a highlighter and pen or pencil (of course, students may also borrow a copy from the library and keep notes in a notebook or use Post-It notes). Please plan to bring your book (or notes) on the first day; I often ask to see the annotations (highlighting and comments within the books) or to see the notes regarding summer reading. On the first day, I begin class with an exam on these texts. No exceptions will be given to taking this exam late. If students choose not to read the literature, they will start the semester badly. The second part of the assessment is an argumentative essay, sometimes written on the first day, although most often composed on the second day. I don't recommend students consult supplemental material as that often serves more as a crutch to prevent real accomplishment in understanding a text. I find that spending more time with the real text is better than wasting time on supplements like SparksNotes.

I welcome each and every student to this class and applaud their desire to work at a higher tempo and explore literature to greater depths. It has become the policy of Douglas High School that transfers into and out of this class must occur before the end of this school year in order to properly serve students and create the best schedule for all students. Please feel free to ask me any questions you have regarding this class or the summer assignment before you leave on summer vacation.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Heine
Honors British literature teacher
Debate coach
Douglas High School