

10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English  
Summer Reading

*Tale of Two Cities*  
By Charles Dickens

***Warning Notice: You will have no idea what is going on in the first chapter when you begin reading. It's OK! Keep reading.***

***Write brief essays (1 or 2 paragraphs) on each of the following questions. Include writing techniques learned with Excellence in Writing. Give specific examples from the text to support your points.***

1. In relationship to the novel how is it possible for the opening sentence to be true.
2. Write a brief essay explaining the political situation during the period in which this novel takes place.
3. What does the title “Recalled to Life” mean, and how does it relate to the rest of the novel?
4. Discuss Dickens’s use of foreshadowing with the image of the wine keg in A Tale of Two Cities.
5. Based on Dickens’s portrayals of the villainous characters in his novel (particularly Madame Defarge), what conclusions might the reader draw about the author’s notions of human evil? Does he seem to think that people are born evil? If so, do they lack the ability to change? Or does he suggest that circumstances drive human beings to their acts of cruelty? Would you consider his view Biblical?

These essays are to be typed, double-spaced, size 12 font, with one-inch margins. Use Excellence in Writing with a variety of sentence openers and dressups.\* This is due the first day of class.

\*Reminder: Openers include subject, prepositional, adverbial, participle, and clausal. Dressups include who/which clause, adverbs, strong verbs, quality adjectives, and clauses

Please Note: You must have a copy of this book with you for class from September through October.

Revised 2011

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*Animal Farm*  
By George Orwell

Remember this is NOT a book about a farm!

1. Look up the context of historical references made in this book and write a paragraph explaining what Orwell was writing about.
2. Find each of the following quotes in your book. In a brief essay, review the context and explain how each quote relates to the overall theme of the book.

“Four legs good, two legs bad.”

“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”

“If you have your lower animals to contend with,” he said, “we have our lower classes!”

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\*Reminder: Openers include subject, prepositional, adverbial, participle, and clausal. Dressups include who/which clause, adverbs, strong verbs, quality adjectives, and clauses

**Please Note:** This copy of *Animal Farm* includes text notes, questions, which will guide you during your reading, and can be marked as you see passages about which you have questions or that are significant. Please mark up this copy and have it with you in class for the first month of school.

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