

# POSNACK

S C H O O L

## 2021 - 2022 Summer Assignments - English IV/English IV Honors

### Assignment One:

**Mandatory Text:** Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

### **Optional Texts:**

- *The Kite Runner* - Khaled Hosseini
- *The Poisonwood Bible* - Barbara Kingsolver
- *Half of a Yellow Sun* - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Evicted* - Matthew Desmond
- *The Omnivore's Dilemma* - Michael Pollan

**Directions:** Please read and annotate BOTH the mandatory text AND one optional text. Be prepared to submit the annotations on the first day of class via Canvas. Minimum 5 annotations per chapter. Include the annotated text and page number. (If the chapters are short, use your discretion and combine chapters.) You will be writing an essay in the first week of school about the mandatory text.

### Annotation Suggestions:

- Literary Elements: similes, metaphors, imagery, etc.
- Predictions
- Setting: How does the setting help to drive the plot?
- Connections: text to text, text to self, text to world
- Emotionally moving passages
- Questions: about characters' motivations, things that are unclear to you, etc.
- Theme
- Symbolism
- Mood/Tone
- Characterization: How does the author develop the characters?

### Assignment Two:

Write a draft of your college essay according to the common app guidelines and consult with the college essay advisor, Miss Wilk: [mwilk@posnackschool.org](mailto:mwilk@posnackschool.org).

The Common App essay prompts will remain the same for 2021-2022 with one exception.

*Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?*

They will also retain the optional COVID-19 question within the Additional Information section.

An essay prompt can't erase the loss and anxiety of the last 12 months, but it can validate the importance of gratitude and kindness. The Common Application hopes students see the new prompt for what it is intended to be: an invitation to bring some joy into their application experience.

Below is the full set of essay prompts for 2021-2022. Maximum 650 words.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

1. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

1. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

1. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

1. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

1. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

1. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Please write your essay on your own. College admission committees know the “voice” of a high school student.