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## BANDERA HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 727, BANDERA, TEXAS 78003 \* 830-796-6254

May 2015

Dear English I Pre-AP Student and Parents:

Welcome to Pre-Advanced Placement (PAP) English I. This letter includes your summer assignment, supply list, and a list of the major literature we will study during the school year.

### Summer Assignment

Your assigned novels for summer reading are *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Specific details regarding your written assignment are included on the back of this letter. Be ready for a test over the reading on the first day of class, Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Bring your novels to class on the first day, as well. Your successful completion of the summer assignment and the first-day novel test will demonstrate not only your reading comprehension, but also whether you are sufficiently motivated to competently meet the additional reading and writing requirements of high school PAP English.

### Supply List

Composition book  
Folder  
Pens with blue or black ink  
#2 pencils with erasers  
Notebook paper  
Flash drive  
Dictionary and Thesaurus for use at home (print or electronic)

### Major Literature Studied During the School Year

The following titles are required readings we will cover in class. Copies of the following texts will be provided for you. However, you may wish to purchase your own in order to annotate or to read ahead of time.

*Oedipus Rex (Oedipus the King)* – Sophocles  
*The Odyssey* – Homer  
*Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* – Frederick Douglass  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee  
*Romeo and Juliet* – William Shakespeare  
*Anthem* – Ayn Rand  
Independent choice selections by theme

### A Note about Subject Matter

Parents and students should be aware that, because English I PAP is a college preparatory course, much of the literature is college-level and, consequently, has mature themes and content that may be disturbing or confusing to younger students. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions about the curriculum or the summer assignment. My email address is [sjones@banderaisd.net](mailto:sjones@banderaisd.net). Students may also contact me via their school Google email accounts. I look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Jones  
BHS English teacher





# Finding My Way, or My Purpose in the Universe

Pre-AP English I scholars explore many genres of literature from widely varying time periods and cultures. Through literature, we learn about the world and about ourselves. We experience triumphs and disasters through the stories we read so that we may live our own lives more happily and more successfully. As readers, we see the world through the eyes of geniuses, villains, and even characters like ourselves, and in doing so, have the potential to become wiser and better through each story we read and each composition we write. High school is a grand adventure – and English is the path to discovery.

Who are you? As we begin the school year, our first unit will delve into ourselves and our quests. Where are you going? What are your goals? How do you relate to the characters in the literature we read? Complete the activities below in preparation for our first unit of study. Anticipate both formal (major grades) and informal assessments (daily grades) over the assigned reading.



**The Quest Begins:** Your summer reading novels are *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. You may check out copies from the school should you desire, but you may wish to supply your own copy for annotating in the text. The purpose of our study is to understand the quests of Percy Jackson and Guy Montag and the factors that contributed to their journeys. We will also look at the different mythical or scientific allusions referenced in the books and how they contribute to the stories.



**The Journey Unravels:** Identify examples of character and allusions by maintaining a color-coded dialectical notebook of quotes and commentary as prescribed below. You will need to complete your dialecticals in a composition book (the same one mentioned on your supply list). Your dialecticals will be taken as two daily grades (one per dialectical category). You will also be using your dialectical entries to answer open-ended responses during the first week of school.

10 quotes documenting the journey of Guy Montag as he uncovers new truths in *Fahrenheit 451*-  
How does he grow and/or change on his journey?

10 quotes examining the mythical allusions used throughout *Lightning Thief*-  
How do they contribute to Percy’s quest?

Remember that dialectical entries should follow the format below. Color-coding is preferred for quick referencing during your writing. The following is an example of Allusion from the novel *War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells.

DEVICE (Blue)	CONCRETE DETAILS (Red)	COMMENTARY (Green)
Allusion	“...the incessant quivering of this mouth, the Gorgon groups of tentacles, the tumultuous breathing of the lungs in a strange atmosphere....”	Wells compares the alien invaders to the Greek monstrous creatures named Gorgons. They are covered with impenetrable scales, with hair of living snakes, hands made of brass, sharp fangs and a beard. He does this to illustrate their frightening appearance.

## The Hero Transforms:

Percy finds himself on a grand adventure to discover his true identity and purpose in life; Guy Montag is introduced to a new perspective of life and then questions everything he has ever known. After reading both books, think about your own life- where you’ve been, what you’ve gone through, what you’ve questioned and what your future goals are. Using these ideas, write a personal narrative detailing your own life path. How you choose to organize your story is up to you, but the final draft should be 2-3 pages double-spaced in twelve point font. Be prepared to digitally upload your final draft into your Google Drive shared folder for Pre-AP English I on the second day of class.

