May 1, 2018

Dear In-Coming English I Pre-AP Students,

First, congrats on taking the initiative to register for the English I Pre-AP Course. If you see the benefit of becoming a life-long learner, Room (#B-129) will be a good fit! As the year progresses, you should see growth in your level of insight, reading skills, and overall writing craft as we take the first step towards College Readiness.

Preparedness, motivation, and work ethic are valuable indicators for academic success. So, let’s start the adventure of embracing the LOVE of READING! If you need assistance with your annotations, we will be available at school for tutoring on June 27th and August 8th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in room B130. Also, please free to email me during the summer should you need assistance. Looking forward to meeting you in August.

Happy Reading,

**Mrs. Iris McNair**

**Email: imcnair@lcisd.org**

**Lamar High School**

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Summer Reading Instructions

**Instructor’s Notes:**

On the following pages, you will find a collection of varied and interesting short stories. Please select (seven) from the list of (nine) links to read. A good suggestion is to print each selection and highlight meaningful details along with writing a few notes in the margin, but this not required. This process greatly helps with general comprehension skills and making insightful connections to the text. Please see additional instructions for reflective responses.

**Reason for Summer Reading:**

We will be working with the Short Story Unit during the First Six Weeks in conjunction with paired poetry readings. Remember, reading raises overall achievement in all areas of the high school curriculum, college, and ultimately leads to happier and more successful people in the job market and life. Research shows that students often function at a deficit when they return to school after a break, so keeping your brain active will help remove the educational gap that typically occurs after a long, summer break.

**Short Story Collection: (Select seven to read).**

Click on each link and open the hyperlink to read. After reading, answer one different question for each of the (five selections) from the seven you have read. Reflection questions should be written in paragraph format with well-crafted sentences and interesting word choices. Please find Reading and Questions on Pages (#2 and 3).

**Short Story Collection:**

Select five short stories to read.

**(Please go to next two pages for Reading Collection and Questions).**

Page #2 of 3

**“Dead Men's Path”**

**By: Chinua Achebe**

A man is appointed headmaster of an African school and tries to rid the campus of superstition.

<http://www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/amcdouga/Hist247/winter_2011/short%20stories/dead%20men.html>

**“The Other Wife”**

**By: Colette**

A couple go out for dinner when they see the male’s ex-wife.

<http://www.101bananas.com/library2/otherwife.html>

**“The Chaser”**

**By: John Collier**

A young man buys a love potion for a dollar. (Please scroll down when you get to the site).

<http://ciscohouston.com/docs/docs/greats/chaser.html>

**“A Conversation From the Third Floor”**

**By: Mohamed El-Bisatie**

A woman tries to speak to her husband in prison.

<http://www.arabworldbooks.com/Literature/story1.htm>

**“Girl”**

**By: Jamaica Kincaid**

A mother imparts advice to her daughter on how to behave like a young woman.

<https://sleepwalking.nu/post/30862364698/wash-the-white-clothes-on-monday-and-put-them-on>

**“One of These Days”**

**By: Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

A hostile exchange occurs when a corrupt mayor sees an unlicensed dentist for treatment.

<https://americanliterature.com/author/gabriel-garcia-marquez/short-story/one-of-these-days>

**“War”**

**By: Luigi Pirandello**

On a train ride, several passengers argue over who among them feels the most grief.

<http://web.mit.edu/alam/Public/weblog/War.htm>

Page #3 of 3

**“The Oval Portrait”**

**By: Edgar Allan Poe**

An injured narrator seeks shelter in an abandoned mansion and discovers something eerie.

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/POE/oval.html>

**“Use of Force”**

**By: William Carlos Williams**

A doctor makes a house call on a sick, young girl with a deadly disease.

<http://www.classicshorts.com/stories/force.html>

**Reflection Questions:**

After reading your chosen selections, respond to five questions by using (5-8) well-crafted sentences with interesting details.

1. Select your favorite protagonist from one of the selections. Why do you think you are able to connect with this character?
2. Which short story has the most shocking element of surprise? Why do you think this is true?
3. Explain what you think is the most significant life obstacle detailed in one of the stories. Explain fully.
4. Which selection seems the most realistic to you? Why?
5. Identify which selection has the most misleading title. Explain your thoughts.
6. Which antagonist is like someone on a show you watch? How are the two connected?
7. Write a profound sentence of reasonable length from one of the selections that says something valuable one can learn regarding a life lesson. Explain your response fully.
8. Which story was your least favorite selection? Why? Support your thoughts.
9. Identify which story had the most unusual setting. How does this affect the reader?
10. Which writer’s style did you enjoy the most? What makes you think this way?