



Dear “Honors English” Juniors,

We hope that this letter finds you well and anticipating the end of a rewarding year. We hope that you will have many good experiences and make many good decisions before we get to see you again in August. One of those decisions that we would like to “help” you with is the decision to remain engaged in some kind of academic activity this summer. While the summer is certainly time to be away from school proper, we hope that it is not a time to stop thinking and stop growing.

**For summer work:**

**1) You will read two books. The required work will be part of the overall theme of the year. You will have a series of assessments in the first weeks that covers these books, as well referencing the work throughout the year.** These books have been selected for interest level and readability as well as for challenging, compelling content in association with American Literature and our school identity.

**2) You will also complete a note card assignment. You will write out key rhetorical words (list provided and can be found on the Xavier webpage; look for the Junior assignment with the Summer Reading link) their definitions and examples. The key terms will be on one side of the card, while the definitions and the examples will be on the other side. These note cards will be turned in the first day of class and you have an exam to verify knowledge of this content in August. These terms will be used throughout the year.**

**Required Books:**

- *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Greg Boyle, SJ
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

**Themes to look for and think about in the books:**

*Tattoos on the Heart* What does it mean to be committed to social justice? How can we challenge the assumption that some lives, particularly those lives of the privileged, matter more than others? How can the value of life and humanity be understood to mean that all lives matter? This compelling testament of Fr. Greg Boyle’s ministry to Los Angeles gang members serves as an invitation to understand the human faces underneath the gang tattoos.

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Considered the pivotal narrative in American literature, *Huck Finn* is integral reading as part of the American literature canon. You must first research the time periods (American Civil War and Reconstruction) in order to establish the narrative’s *satirical* tone. The language in this novel is graphic, as it specifically uses the “N” word throughout the entire story. Of course, we will examine this language evolution from the actual time period when Mark Twain wrote the novel as well as through a 21<sup>st</sup> century lens. You will need to analyze the language, content and context of this book. Again, the thematic approach will connect back to the American Dream as well as class and race struggles due to political and geographical barriers.

Contact Mr. Kevin Byrne with any questions: [kbyrne@xavierprep.org](mailto:kbyrne@xavierprep.org)

## Summer Reading Reports

Some Key Terms for you to research and understand **before and during** your read of Huck Finn include, but are not limited, to:

- Southern Reconstruction (1865-1877) and how it contrasts with the Antebellum South (1812-1861)
- The Dred Scott Supreme Court Case
- The Fugitive Slave Act
- The Civil War (including secession, state rights vs. federal government authority, slavery policies in “free” vs. “slave” states, statistics for estimates of Union and Confederate casualties of war, scorched earth policy)
- Carpetbaggers and Scalawags, Military Reconstruction Act, Jim Crow Laws (basically, how each of these terms demonstrate conflict and tension during Reconstruction)
- 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments
- The feud of the Hatfields and the McCoys
- Characteristics of Victorian Literature, particularly Romanticism, and its criticism from realists and satirists
- The Temperance Movement (beginning in the 1820s) and its impact during the 19<sup>th</sup> century

These terms serve as a partial list to understanding the historical context of Huck Finn. Feel free to research and use further sources to supplement the concepts each character represents, as well as Huck’s emerging and confused identity as the “New South” following the Civil War.

It is suggested that you take extensive notes and annotations for these two books. You will be assessed on each of the texts within the first few weeks of the school year.

# Summer Reading Reports

Note Card Assignment: Using the resources provided, you will write out the definitions and examples for each rhetorical term on a note card. These will then be turned in on the first day of class. They will be graded and returned to be used throughout the year.

The format should be as follows: Side one of the card must have the number of the term in the top left corner, and the term itself in the middle of the card. Side two of the card must have the definition of the term, then a space, then at least one example of the term used in actual text. You may acquire examples from any book or other resource, but please make sure that you understand the meaning of the term based on the example(s) you provide.

Due Date: First day of regular classes

On these pages you will find brief definitions of grammatical, literary, and rhetorical terms that we will utilize throughout the school year. Please create flashcards for EACH term to be submitted the first day of school and be prepared to demonstrate mastery within the first month of school.

\*Logical fallacies are denoted on this list with an (\*). A logical fallacy is a type of erroneous argument meant to distract/fool a listener rather than rely on actual, logical rhetoric. Please make sure you know the distinction between logical argument and logical fallacy.

## 1. Ad Hominem\*

An argument based on the failings of an adversary rather than on the merits of the case; a logical fallacy that involves a personal attack.

## 2. Ad Populum\*

Evading issues in an argument by appealing to the audience's emotional reactions to certain subjects

## 3. Allegory

Extending a metaphor so that objects, persons, and actions in a text are equated with meanings that lie outside the text.

## 4. Alliteration

The repetition of an initial consonant sound.

## 5. Allusion

## **Summer Reading Reports**

A brief, usually indirect reference to a person, place, or event--real or fictional.

### **6. Ambiguity**

The presence of two or more possible meanings in any passage.

### **7. Anadiplosis**

Repetition of the last word of one clause at the beginning of the following clause.

### **8. Analogy**

Reasoning or arguing from parallel cases.

### **9. Anaphora**

The repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or verses.

### **10. Antecedent**

The noun or noun phrase referred to by a pronoun.

### **11. Antimetabole**

Repetition of words in reverse order.

### **12. Antithesis**

The juxtaposition of contrasting ideas in balanced phrases.

### **13. Aphorism**

(1) A tersely phrased statement of a truth or opinion.

(2) A brief statement of a principle.

### **14. Apostrophe**

A rhetorical term for breaking off discourse to address some absent person or thing.

### **15. Appeal to Authority\***

A fallacy in which a speaker or writer seeks to persuade not by giving evidence but by appealing to the respect people have for a famous person or institution.

### **16. Appeal to Ignorance\***

A fallacy that uses an opponent's inability to disprove a conclusion as proof of the conclusion's correctness.

# Summer Reading Reports

## 17. Archaic Diction

Old-fashioned or outdated choice of words

## 18. Argument

A course of reasoning aimed at demonstrating truth or falsehood.

## 19. Assonance

The identity or similarity in sound between internal vowels in neighboring words.

## 20. Asyndeton

The omission of conjunctions between words, phrases, or clauses (opposite of polysyndeton).

## 21. Chiasmus

A verbal pattern in which the second half of an expression is balanced against the first but with the parts reversed.

## 22. Circular Argument\*

An argument that commits the logical fallacy of assuming what it is attempting to prove.

## 23. Claim

An arguable statement, which may be a claim of fact, value, or policy.

## 24. Clause

A group of words that contains a subject and a predicate.

## 25. Climax

Mounting by degrees through words or sentences of increasing weight and in parallel construction with an emphasis on the high point or culmination of a series of events.

## 26. Colloquial

Characteristic of writing that seeks the effect of informal spoken language as distinct from formal or literary English.

## 27. Comparison

A rhetorical strategy in which a writer examines similarities and/or differences between two people, places, ideas, or objects.

# Summer Reading Reports

## **28. Complement**

A word or word group that completes the predicate in a sentence.

## **29. Concession**

An argumentative strategy by which a speaker or writer acknowledges the validity of an opponent's point.

## **30. Confirmation**

The main part of a text in which logical arguments in support of a position are elaborated.

## **31. Conjunction**

The part of speech (or word class) that serves to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

## **32. Connotation**

The emotional implications and associations that a word may carry.

## **33. Coordination**

The grammatical connection of two or more ideas to give them equal emphasis and importance.  
Contrast with subordination.

## **34. Cumulative Sentence (also known as a Loose Sentence)**

Sentence that completes the main idea at the beginning of the sentence, and then builds an adds on.

## **35. Deduction**

A method of reasoning in which a conclusion follows necessarily from the stated premises.

## **36. Denotation**

The direct or dictionary meaning of a word, in contrast to its figurative or associated meanings.

## **37. Dialect**

A regional or social variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, and/or vocabulary.

## **38. Diction (also known as Trope)**

(1) The choice and use of words in speech or writing.

(2) A way of speaking, usually assessed in terms of prevailing standards of pronunciation and elocution.

## **39. Didactic**

## Summer Reading Reports

Intended or inclined to teach or instruct, often excessively.

### **40. Encomium**

A tribute or eulogy in prose or verse glorifying people, objects, ideas, or events.

### **41. Epiphora**

The repetition of a word or phrase at the end of several clauses. (Also known as epistrophe.)

### **42. Epitaph**

(1) A short inscription in prose or verse on a tombstone or monument.

(2) A statement or speech commemorating someone who has died: a funeral oration.

### **43. Ethos**

A persuasive appeal based on the projected character of the speaker or narrator.

### **44. Eulogy**

A formal expression of praise for someone who has recently died.

### **45. Euphemism**

The substitution of an inoffensive term for one considered offensively explicit.

### **46. Exigence**

The occasion and context within an immediacy of now.

### **47. Exposition**

A statement or type of composition intended to give information about (or an explanation of) an issue, subject, method, or idea.

### **48. Extended Metaphor**

A comparison between two unlike things that continues throughout a series of sentences in a paragraph or lines in a poem.

### **49. Fallacy\***

An error in reasoning that renders an argument invalid.

### **50. False Dilemma\***

A fallacy of oversimplification that offers a limited number of options (usually two) when in fact more options are available.

# Summer Reading Reports

## 51. Figurative Language

Language in which figures of speech (such as metaphors, similes, and hyperbole) freely occur.

## 52. Figures of Speech

The various uses of language that depart from customary construction, order, or significance.

## 53. Flashback

A shift in a narrative to an earlier event that interrupts the normal chronological development of a story.

## 54. Genre

A category of artistic composition, as in film or literature, marked by a distinctive style, form, or content.

## 55. Hasty Generalization\*

A fallacy in which a conclusion is not logically justified by sufficient or unbiased evidence.

## 56. Hortative Sentence

Sentence that exhorts, advises, calls to action

## 57. Hyperbole

A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; an extravagant statement.

## 58. Imagery

Vivid descriptive language that appeals to one or more of the senses.

## 59. Imperative Sentence

Sentence used to command, enjoin, implore, or entreat

## 60. Induction

A method of reasoning by which an orator collects a number of instances and forms a generalization that is meant to apply to all instances.

## 61. Invective

Denunciatory or abusive language; discourse that casts blame on somebody or something.

## 62. Inversion

Inverted order of words in a sentence (variation of the subject-verb-object order)

## 63. Irony



## Summer Reading Reports

The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning. A statement or situation where the meaning is directly contradicted by the appearance or presentation of the idea.

### 64. Isocolon

A succession of phrases of approximately equal length and corresponding structure.

### 65. Jargon

The specialized language of a professional, occupational, or other group, often meaningless to outsiders.

### 66. Juxtaposition

Placement of two things closely together to emphasize comparisons or contrasts

### 67. Litotes

A figure of speech consisting of an understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by negating its opposite.

### 68. Metaphor

A figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between two unlike things that actually have something important in common.

### 69. Metonymy

A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated (such as "crown" for "royalty").

### 70. Mode of Discourse

The way in which information is presented in a text. The four traditional modes are narration, description, exposition, and argument.

### 71. Mood

(1) The quality of a verb that conveys the writer's attitude toward a subject.

(2) The emotion evoked by a text.

### 72. Narrative

A rhetorical strategy that recounts a sequence of events, usually in chronological order.

### 73. Non Sequitur\*

A logical fallacy in which a statement is made that does not connect in a logical or clear way to a previous premise or statement. Latin for "It does not follow."

## Summer Reading Reports

### 74. Onomatopoeia

The formation or use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.

### 75. Oxymoron

A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side by side.

### 76. Paradox

A statement that appears to contradict itself.

### 77. Parallelism

The similarity of structure in a pair or series of related words, phrases, or clauses.

### 78. Paralipsis

Giving emphasis by professing to say little or nothing of a subject

### 79. Parody

A literary or artistic work that imitates the characteristic style of an author or a work for comic effect or ridicule.

### 80. Pathos

The means of persuasion that appeals to the audience's emotions.

### 81. Periodic Sentence

A long and frequently involved sentence, marked by suspended syntax, in which the sense is not completed until the final word--usually with an emphatic climax.

### 82. Persona

The aspect of someone's character that is presented to or perceived by others; specifically a role or character adopted by an author or speaker

### 83. Personification

A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.

### 84. Point of View

The perspective from which a speaker or writer tells a story or presents information.

### 85. Post Hoc Reasoning (Post Hoc, ergo propter hoc)\*

## Summer Reading Reports

Literally means, “after this, therefore because of this.” The debater mistakes a temporal (time) connection for a causal relationship—or in other words, when we assume that because one event follows another in time, the first event caused the second.

### **86. Pronoun**

A word (a part of speech or word class) that takes the place of a noun.

### **87. Propaganda\***

A model of logical fallacy meant to elicit an emotional response from the audience

### **88. Prose**

Ordinary writing (both fiction and nonfiction) as distinguished from verse.

### **89. Purpose**

The author’s intended message

### **90. Red Herring\***

An irrelevant point to divert attention from the main issue.

### **91. Refutation**

The part of an argument wherein a speaker or writer anticipates and counters opposing points of view.

### **92. Repetition**

An instance of using a word, phrase, or clause more than once in a short passage--dwelling on a point.

### **93. Rhetoric**

The study and practice of effective communication.

### **94. Rhetorical Question**

A question asked merely for effect with no answer expected.

### **95. Running Style**

Sentence style that appears to follow the mind as it worries a problem through, mimicking the "rambling, associative syntax of conversation"--the opposite of periodic sentence style.

### **96. Sarcasm**

A mocking, often ironic or satirical remark.

### **97. Satire**

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A text or performance that uses irony, derision, or wit to expose or attack human vice, foolishness, or stupidity.

### 98. Simile

A figure of speech in which two fundamentally unlike things are explicitly compared, usually in a phrase introduced by "like" or "as."

### 99. Straw man\*

Argument where the debater selects the opposition's weakest or most insignificant point to argue against in order to divert the audience's attention from the real issues.

### 100. Style

Narrowly interpreted as those figures that ornament speech or writing; broadly, as representing a manifestation of the person speaking or writing.

### 101. Syllogism

A form of deductive reasoning consisting of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion.

### 102. Subordination

Words, phrases, and clauses that make one element of a sentence dependent on (or subordinate to) another. Contrast with coordination.

### 103. Symbol

A person, place, action, or thing that (by association, resemblance, or convention) represents something other than itself.

### 104. Synecdoche

A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole or the whole for a part.

### 105. Syntax (also known as Scheme)

- (1) The study of the rules that govern the way words combine to form phrases, clauses, and sentences.
- (2) The arrangement of words in a sentence.

### 106. Thesis

The main idea of an essay or report, often written as a single declarative sentence.

### 107. Tone

## **Summer Reading Reports**

A writer's attitude toward the subject and audience. Tone is primarily conveyed through diction, point of view, syntax, and level of formality.

### **108. Transition**

The connection between two parts of a piece of writing, contributing to coherence.

### **109. Understatement**

A figure of speech in which a writer deliberately makes a situation seem less important or serious than it is.

### **110. Voice**

(1) The quality of a verb that indicates whether its subject acts (active voice) or is acted upon (passive voice).

(2) The distinctive style or manner of expression of an author or narrator.

### **111. Zeugma**

The use of a word to modify or govern two or more words although its use may be grammatically or logically correct with only one.