

VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL
27801 N. Dickason Drive Valencia, CA 91355 (661) 294-1188
Department of English

To: _____
9th Honors English Student at Valencia High School

Welcome to 9th Honors English at Valencia High School! This is your **Independent Summer Reading Requirement**:

Obtain a copy and read an unedited version of **GREAT EXPECTATIONS** by Charles Dickens. Purchase or checkout a copy from the city library. During the first two days of school in the fall, you will be required to generate an essay for an analysis of this novel. This essay will guide the Honors teachers for planning instruction and testing your level of understanding in higher order thinking skills and analysis. Additionally, there will be an independent project assigned related to the book. It is expected that you will have read the book in its entirety by the first day of school in August.

After obtaining a copy of **GREAT EXPECTATIONS**, purchase a sturdy spiral notebook to begin an outline of the novel.

Bring the book and your notes the first day of school (no Cliff Notes allowed). If the book is your personal copy, feel free to make marginal notes. As you read, familiarize yourself with the following:

- Theme of the book and how that theme is revealed.
- Development of characters throughout the story.
- Setting and its significance to the story line.
- Plot line, the complications revealed through the plot, and how these are resolved.
- Conflicts and conflicts existing on several levels.
- Point of view and how it influences the story.
- How the author reveals the mood and tone of the book.

Your notes should be approximately 1 – 1 ½ pages per chapter (you may bullet your notes). Your notes should be thorough but not excessive. Come prepared on the first day of school to begin your essay.

Have a fun summer reading!

The Valencia High School English Department

Please tear off and return only this part to your current English teacher.

By signing below I am stating that I have received the summer assignment and understand what is required.

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____