**Welcome to Honors English III!! Summer 2015**

This letter will tell you everything you need to know to get started on your Honors III studies over the summer. Please don’t hesitate to come talk to me or e-mail me if you have any questions or concerns.

This summer you will be reading two books. First, everyone will read the non-fiction account of Chris McCandless and his great Alaskan adventure in *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. Next, you may choose one of the two following novels to read: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien or *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Please be sure to do any research you need to in order to choose a book, since both novels deal with some tough issues, and *The Things They Carried* uses strong language on occasion. Visit my website (address below) for more information on both books. You may read the books in any order.

Honors English students are responsible for acquiring their own copies of the books. Check with local libraries, bookstores, or even upperclassmen who may be willing to part with their copies. If you have a smart phone or eReader (like Kindle or Nook), you might consider getting digital copies of the books.

As you read, plan and create a 3-D project that demonstrates your understanding of how *Into the Wild* ties in with your chosen novel.  The overall focus is a comparison/contrast, which means identifying and labeling both similarities and differences.

---Example projects:  a model, a poster with interactive elements, a pop-up book, etc.

---Example focuses:  compare and contrast...personality traits of the protagonists; major themes of the

works;  significant conflicts in the books; meaningful symbols in each work; the authors’ unique ways of telling the story, etc.

Bring your project on the first day of class, and be prepared to present your project during the first week of school.  Explain your 3-D project and the choices that you made.  Your presentation should be a maximum of five minutes long.

In addition, on the first day of class, you will take a comprehension test over both books.  This closed-book, closed-note test will ask you several short answer questions and one essay-length question over various elements of the books.

I think that’s it! Contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Have a great summer, and I’ll see you next fall!

Miss Bergman

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785-893-2734

Class website: [www.englishbookcorner.wikispaces.com](http://www.englishbookcorner.wikispaces.com)

RESOURCES:

Newton Public Library—computers; books; librarians—always a good resource!

Newton High School: 316-284-6280—secretaries—always a good resource!