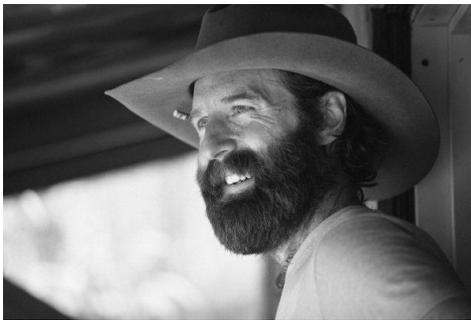


# English I Honors Required Summer Reading

The MHS Language Arts Department welcomes you to your freshman year! This year, we are approaching summer reading a little differently. We have decided to get creative with our summer reading program and rather than reading a classic novel or young adult fiction, we will be using a blog with short stories written by a local author named Sean Dietrich. However, because we are trying something new, we want to make clear that **this is NOT OPTIONAL!!** We will use what you learn from your summer work, to complete several summative assignments at the beginning of the year!! **Your friends may tell you that this reading is optional, but it is not! All English 1 Honors students have to do required summer reading**☺ If you have questions concerning summer reading, please feel free to email either Mrs. Harless at [harlej1@bay.k12.fl.us](mailto:harlej1@bay.k12.fl.us) or Mrs. McGuire at [mcguice@bay.k12.f.us](mailto:mcguice@bay.k12.f.us).

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***“Sean of the South” blog at [seandietrich.com](http://seandietrich.com)*** (printed copies are available in the MAPPS office if you don’t have access to the internet)



**About the Author:** Sean Dietrich is a writer from Northwest Florida, who now lives in rural Alabama. He failed the 5th grade, was told by his teacher that he would be best suited for a career in construction, and he dropped out of high school. Later in life, with the encouragement of his wife and his hound dog, Ellie Mae, he went back to school, received his GED and became a writer. He writes a blog called "Sean of the South" about all the beauties of a simple Southern life.

- (1) **Sign on to [SeanDietrich.com](http://SeanDietrich.com), subscribe to his blog and begin to enjoy his work!** I believe that you will find his writing to be beautiful and I think you will relate with many of the topics he writes about as he is a local writer and often mentions places you might have gone. We believe in the importance of reading and believe summer reading should be about developing a love for reading, so while this is not your traditional summer reading assignment, we are certain you will enjoy what he has to say and therefore enjoy reading.
- (2) As you read **be an active reader!** Look for things you feel are important, especially detailed, unforgettable, insightful, exciting, special – passages that evoke a strong emotional response from you or that get you thinking. You will be given stories to respond to and will also have to pick some out on your own, so try to relate to what you are reading and allow yourself to explore your own feelings about what he is saying.
- (3) **Your assignment:**
  - a.) **See the attached list of stories you are asked to read and respond to those stories using the questions provided.**
  - b.) **Find at least 3 stories on his blog site that you feel you can relate to and respond in a thoughtful way.**
  - c.) **Write your own anecdote that relates to your life in some way. Get creative! There are no real parameters other than it needs to be a story that is personal to you in some way.**
  - d.) **Your work will be due on the first day of school, so come prepared.**

***Note: The plagiarizing of material for summer reading is strictly prohibited!***

Read **“Wewa” December 18, 2017** - In this post it describes all of the unique things that make Wewa great. Think about your own community. What are some things that make your hometown great? Use descriptive language to describe your hometown in a way that would make people want to visit it.

Read **“Not So Little Women,” September 28, 2017** – In this anecdote, Dietrich states, “The world could learn a lot from teenagers.” What do you think he means by this? What are some lessons teenagers could teach us?

**Read “Dixie Chicks,” August 6, 2017** – What roadtrip would you take if you could? What would you need to see along the way to make your trip complete?

**Read “To Shave a Mockingbird,” April 19, 2018** – Dietrich states, “You don’t forget when someone tells you you’re good at something.” Reflect on this statement? Do you believe it is true? Discuss a time when someone told you that you were good at something. What about a time someone told you that you were bad at something?

**Read “Sunrise,” April 10, 2018** – Reflect about what you think the theme of this piece is. Write an explanation of that theme and be sure to cite evidence from the story to support your ideas.

**Read “Good,” May 4, 2018** – What lessons do you think Sam learned from the people he helped? How do you think acting as an “angel” changed Sam?

**Read “L.A.,” April 22, 2018** – In this anecdote, Dietrich makes the statement, “It’s just how we’re brought up.” What do you think he means by that? What are some lessons you were “brought up” with?

**Read “Pretty Is,” April 17, 2018** – Mrs. Rebecca says that, “People are flowers,” what does she mean by this? What type of flower are you? Explain your reasoning.

**Read “Dear Sean,” September 14, 2018 it’s a letter from “Ninth Grade Sucks”** – We all have moments in life in which we don’t feel adequate enough. Dietrich seems to challenge the student to really look at the things that “mean something.” What “means something” to you? What predictions can you make about your 9<sup>th</sup> grade year?

**Read “Little Girl,” August 11, 2017** – After reading this, reflect about some things you’ve seen in life that have changed you. What were those things and of all of them, what was the “finest” of them?

**Read “Dear Sean,” August 10, 2017, from “First Grade ‘Fraidy Cat”** – Starting something new is always hard. What are your concerns about starting high school? How are your concerns similar and different to the concerns the letter writer and Dietrich had going into their first days of school?

**Your Choice:**  
**Title and Date of Entry:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection about the Entry:**

**Your Choice:**  
**Title and Date of Entry:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection about the Entry:**

**Your Choice:**  
**Title and Date of Entry:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection about the Entry:**