

**Cab Calloway School of the Arts**  
**English Summer Reading: 11 Honors and College Preparatory**

**NOVEL:** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

**ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS:** Characters in books can teach us how to deal with the problems or circumstances in our own lives. Often we see ourselves in the characters portrayed in books; their lessons demonstrate how we can change or grow in our own lives.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**

**Style-** How does one of the central characters in the novel change? How does the author portray this change? What does the author want the reader to learn from this character's growth or development?

**Meaning and Message –** What factors contribute to a person's identity? How do man-made labels affect the identity of a person? How do we "see and understand" others based on outward appearances?

**OBJECTIVES:**

- to demonstrate an overall understanding of the summer reading novel
- to explore the author's purpose in writing the text
- to respond to literary text by making inferences about content, events, characters, and author's decisions
- to connect personal experiences to those of literary characters
- to produce an insightful piece of creative writing, art, or video which accurately traces a character's development throughout the novel
- to collaboratively discuss and present an analysis of the growth of a character throughout the text
- to orally communicate ideas and opinions while listening open mindedly to the opinions of others

**ANNOTATIONS:**

Students will be working with the novels the first two weeks of class and should have annotated copies prepared. Annotations can be written on the page(s) or on post-its attached to the page(s); however, regardless of the annotation method, it is critical that students "mark-up" their texts as all assessments surrounding the novel will require the use of direct text.

Annotations should address the Essential Questions and Objectives outlined above. Annotations should appear throughout the entire text but do not need to be equally elaborated at all points (i.e. some scenes may require copious annotations while others may require little or none).

Feel free to annotate your emotional reactions to scenes as well (expressions such as: what?, seriously?, yes!, I can't even!, no!, etc.)

Enjoy!!

