Dear future English 9 Honors students and parents/guardians:

Welcome to English 9 Honors! We are the three teachers for English 9 Honors at Clovis East and we are very anxious to meet you and spend the school year together. This is going to be an exciting and engaging year. It will also be a year of challenges and growth. Therefore, in order to provide a more in-depth study of English while covering more material throughout the year, all English 9 Honors students will be assigned a summer reading assignment.

This assignment will be based on the short novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. **You may obtain the book from your school library, your local library or buy it at the bookstore.**

Requirements:

- **READ** the book *Animal Farm*
- **REFLECT** on the Interpretive Questions and Applied questions (page 2).
- Be **PREPARED** to **PARTICIPATE** in a whole class Socratic Seminar on the second day of school. Your participation in this discussion assignment will be graded.
- **WRITE** an informative/explanatory **essay the first week of school** about a given topic in the book. Students will use evidence from the novel and from articles to support their claims. **THIS ASSIGNMENT IS A WRITING PREASSESSMENT AND WILL BE DONE IN CLASS**.

We are looking forward to embarking on this literary and life journey with you.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Shelley Lane
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Mrs. Sheng Vu
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Favor de llamar a la oficina para asistencia en español.

Thov tiv tauj peb lub hoob kas yog xav tau kev pab nrog lus Hmoob.

Animal Farm, by George Orwell

- **Interpretive Questions-** Think about these questions before, during, and after reading to help you understand the text.

  1. What conditions in the human and animal world brought about the rebellion?
  2. What "laws" provide the basis for the society of Animal Farm? How do the laws evolve throughout the story and what does this tell you about how this society is evolving?
  3. Which animals gained leadership of the others? Why?
  4. How does Napoleon use Snowball to advance his own power? What did Snowball actually do at Animal Farm, and how did Napoleon twist these actions to manipulate the other animals?
  5. As time goes on, the animals on the farm have a difficult life. How do the pigs get them to accept these conditions?
  6. Why was the singing of "Beasts of England" really banned?
  7. Writing as if you were speaking *in Napoleon's voice* talking to the other animals, explain why Boxer is sent to the knacker's.

- **Applied Level Questions-** Think about these question before, during and after reading to help you make connections to the text.

  1. *Animal Farm* is an allegory. Find out what an allegory is, and in your own words explain what you think George Orwell is trying to explain about human behavior through this story about animals. Describe three characters with human personality traits that are universal and timeless, and speculate on what kind of people they might represent.
  2. Research the meaning of propaganda. How does Napoleon use Squealer for his own propaganda? What are some techniques of propaganda that Squealer uses on the animals and why do they work?
  3. What is the role of education and its opposite (ignorance) in the story? What larger point do you think Orwell is trying to make about knowledge and the power of education?
  4. Compare *Animal Farm* to a similar book you have read recently. How is the message about society or human nature the same? What do the authors express that is different? Many books from the reading list on the back would make an interesting comparison.