

*English II*  
*Summer Assignment 2024*

Read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett carefully. Once that's completed, respond to each of the prompts below. Each response should be a paragraph of 4-6 well-developed sentences. Your work should be typed and formatted in the MLA style. You should have your responses ready to be turned in on the **first day of classes**; it will be the foundation of your first in-class essay.

Contact Ms. Boyle ([eboyle@eustace.org](mailto:eboyle@eustace.org)) with questions.

The response prompts are:

1. **Exposition:** Identify the setting (time and place) in which the story develops. As the story unfolds, consider the importance of setting to the main characters, to their conflicts, and to the theme.
2. **Characterization:** Describe the story's protagonist (s), including character weaknesses and strengths. As the story unfolds, consider the problem or dilemma that the character(s) struggles with, the options available to them, and the characters' motivations in executing those options.
3. **Conflict:** Identify the point of complication, when the protagonist is forced into a struggle with the antagonist. As the story unfolds, consider whether this struggle is with natural forces, other individuals, society at large, the protagonist themselves, or something else. Consider not only how the conflict develops but also how it resolves.
4. **Theme:** Discuss the overall statement that the writer has made with this book (remembering that a theme is more than simply an abstract topic, like "prejudice" or "love"). Consider the "3T Formula": What is the significance of the *Title*? What is the *Topic* (or subject matter) of the book? What is the author's *Tone* (or attitude towards the topic)?