

Dear Junior Honors Student,

In order to begin next year on the right note, I am giving you a critical reading and writing assignment to be completed before the beginning of the school year. You will be reading *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. Complete the assignments below, and be prepared to complete a character analysis based on the foils in the novel on the first day of school.

- ∞ **Do some research on Ken Follett.** Where did he grow up? What were his major influences? What motivation did he have in writing about the building of a cathedral? It is essential that you become familiar with his personal experiences and literary career before you read the novel.
- ∞ **Define and identify the literary element of foil.** You should know the definition and be able to identify two pairs of foils from the novel.
- ∞ **Read *Pillars of the Earth*.** I recommend that you read the novel in August so that the material will be fresh in your mind in September. Make sure you read and comprehend each phase of the building of the cathedral, it is pertinent to your understanding of the novel.
- ∞ **Complete the Novel Reading Form.**
  - ℵ You should take notes on the novel, responding to the experiences of Jane and write down any insights you gain during your reading.
  - ℵ Furthermore, you should write down quotations (with accompanying page numbers) that you think are revealing about both the main characters and the cultural attitudes of the other figures in the novel.
  - ℵ Be sure to include in your quotations and your note-taking some of the specific differences in the cathedral's progress.
  - ℵ Make your notes as detailed as possible; you will be able to use them when you write a character analysis on the first day of school.

Be aware that Honors English 300 is a rigorous course. Enjoy your summer, and be ready to work in September.

**THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH**  
**Summer Reading Form**

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Point of View: (Who is telling the story?)</b>
<b>Brief Plot Summary</b>	
Prologue: 1123	
Part 1: 1135-1136	
Part 2: 1136 - 1137	
Part 3: 1140 - 1142	
Part 4: 1142 - 1145	
Part 5: 1152 - 1155	
Part 6: 1170 - 1174	

**Brief Description of Central Idea/Theme**

**Brief Description of Predominant Conflicts**

**Symbols**

Choose two symbols and trace their development throughout the novel. Consider when the symbols make their appearances and how it helps to illuminate a character or a theme.

*Symbols to consider: Aliena's Dagger, The Weeping Lady, The Kiss of Peace, Kingsbridge Cathedral*

**Directions:** Provide quotes (descriptive words & phrases – not just character dialogue) from the novel that provide a description of the characters and settings below. Include a brief explanation of how the quote relates to each character/setting.

<b>Settings (There are five major settings)</b>	
St-John-in-the-Forest	
Priory of Kingsbridge	
Earlscastle at Shiring	
The Cathedral at Saint-Denis	
<b>Characters</b>	
Tom Builder	
Ellen	
Waleran Bigod	
Philip of Gwynned	
Jack Jackson	
Alfred	

Aliena	
William Hamleigh	
Richard of Kingsbridge	
Thomas Beckett	
Earl Bartholomew	

**Predominant Themes**

*On a separate sheet of paper, provide examples from the text for the following themes of the novel.*

- Forgiveness
  
- Fate
  
- Faith
  
- Trust and Betrayal