

## Note taking assignment for 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature summer reading

Name:

Ms. Kinlock

Literature

Date:

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature! We will spend the next school year learning to analyze and discuss literature, both classic and contemporary. As an introduction to this course, over the summer you must read and take notes about the play *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. Please be sure you are reading the play script, not the book.

*Your notes must be handwritten on loose-leaf paper in blue or black ink. YOU MAY NOT USE ANY SOURCE TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT OTHER THAN THE SCRIPT AND YOUR BRAIN. The notes will be collected for a grade on the first day of class. These notes will be graded, returned, and then used to create an essay and a presentation on the book.*

*Your notes need to be detailed. They should include explanations of any conclusions drawn and specific details from the play.*

*You should use the following questions as a guide for your note taking:*

### Questions for note taking:

#### **Plot**

- What conflicts are involved in the story? Are they physical, intellectual, moral, or emotional?
- What is the main conflict? What is the story's climax or turning point?
- What is the most important event in the play? Why? What can the reader learn from it?

#### **Setting**

- When and where is the story set? How crucial is the setting to the story?
- Which details create a sense of historical era? How specific is the time setting? What season(s) are describe and how?

#### **Character**

- Who is the protagonist (main character) of the story? Why is he or she the protagonist?
- What is that character like?
- Is his or her emotional state constant or changing? What events or moments of self-revelation produce changes in the main character?
- Is the behavior of the characters believable? Is it consistent with their natures? Is it adequately motivated?

#### **Theme**

- What is the purpose of this play?
- What are the major themes? What general thoughts does the author develop about life and human beings?
- What commentary is the author making about the four different areas of thematic concern: the nature of humanity, the nature of society, the nature of humankind's relationship to the world, and the nature of our ethical responsibilities?
- Do the themes reinforce or oppose popular notions about life or humans? Do the themes furnish a new insight or refresh and deepen old ones?