

English II—Summer Reading

You are to read three books from the following list. You will be tested on the books listed (to help you with the tests - - - while reading the novel, make a complete list of all characters in the book, and a list of events as they happen in the novel).

You will be given an oral report on another book from the list. You will write an essay on the third book you read. Your essay is due on the first full day of school. Late essays will not be accepted. Your essay must be typed. All three assignments have the value of test grades.

You will be tested on: Animal Farm by William Golding

Other novels and plays from which to choose:

- I Hate Everyone, Except You by Clinton Kelly
- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
- The Upside of Unrequited by Becky Albertalli
- Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
- Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon
- Between Two Skies by Joanne O'Sullivan
- The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
- Black Ships Before Troy by Rosemary Sutcliff
- Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
- The Chronicles of Narnia (any volume) by C.S. Lewis
- The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
- Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
- Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
- 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo
- A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
- The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas
- Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane
- The Life of Pi by Yann Martel
- Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
- My Name is Asher by Chaim Potok
- Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel
- The Good Earth by Pearl Buck

Some things to do before reading the Novel on which you will be writing:

- Always read any material in the introduction of the book and any material at the end of the book. You may find an explanation of issues you wish to discuss in your essay in the introductory material.
- Find a short biography of the author (perhaps at the back or front of the book) and read it. This may help you to understand the novel more fully.
- While reading the novel, be sure to take notes! Write in your book, (in pencil) if possible.
- Note any words that are unfamiliar. Look them up in the dictionary.
- Pay close attention to themes you find in the book (what “messages” do you think the author has in writing this work).
- Pay attention to the way each character is described in the novel, how he or she looks, acts, thinks, reacts, interacts with other characters.
- Pay close attention to any symbolism you might see in the novel
- Pay attention to how characters differ and how they might be similar
- Pay attention to how the situations or characters in the novel might relate to your own experiences.

Essay:

Write a title page for your essay, including the title of your essay, (which should not be the same as the novel on which you are writing) your name, the date, the school, your grade level.

Your essay must have a thesis (main point). Everything in your essay must be related to your main point.

Your thesis must be your own opinion or idea about the novel. Your thesis must be stated clearly in your first paragraph.

Your essay must be at least 5 full paragraphs long. Remember, a paragraph consists of at least 5 to 8 full sentences that make the same point.

(Note: Remember that we write about fiction in the present tense. For example, “Romeo and Juliet are impulsive characters,” not “Romeo and Juliet were impulsive characters.”)

Model of a basic essay:

- First Paragraph (Your Introduction) — in your first paragraph, you should try to grab your readers’ attention. You must also state your main point (Your Thesis).
- Second, Third, Fourth, etc. Paragraphs— in each of the paragraphs between the introduction and conclusion you should be explaining one of the points that help explain the main point of your essay (Your Thesis). You should use specific examples from the novel to make your point.
- Last Paragraph (Your Conclusion) — in your last paragraph you should be restating your main point in a new way and leaving your readers with something to remember.

Your essay is due on the first full day of school. Late essays will not be accepted.

Here are some possible topics for your essay: (only choose one of the following on which to write your essay)

1. Compare (focus on the similarities) two characters from the Novel
2. Contrast (focus on the differences) two characters from the Novel
3. Explain what you think is the most interesting theme of the Novel (in other words, what message do you get from the Novel?)
4. Explain how the setting (time and place) of the Novel affects the characters and their actions.
5. Explain the conflict in the Novel. Look at the sources of the conflict, how the characters are affected by the conflict and how it is resolved.

You will be graded on: Proper Title Page-5pts; Appropriate Introduction-5pts; Clear thesis which states the purpose of the essay-20pts; Body of essay is developed sufficiently and supports the thesis-30pts; Use of examples from the Novel to back up each major point-20pts; Conclusion restates thesis and leaves readers with something to think about-5pts; Mechanics (spelling errors, punctuation errors, run on sentences, fragments)-15pts

Any suspicion of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero.

Oral Book Report Assignment

For one of the two books chosen from the list. (not the same book discussed in your essay nor **The Great Gatsby**.) This assignment consists of four parts. And 100 items. Every item must be numbered. The work must be typed and printed.

Part 1

Make a list of 25 words from the novel you think someone might not understand. Define each word in your own words. Give the part of speech for each word. Copy the sentence from the book from which you got the word. Make sure to put page number in parentheses behind each word. Number each word.

Part 2

Make a list of the plot of the book in 25 sentences. What happened in the book? Recount the events in 25 numbered sentences. Number each sentence neatly.

Part 3

Make a list of at least 25 proper nouns (names, places, etc.) in the novel. Explain each in a sentence. Number each.

Part 4

In a paragraph of at least 25 numbered sentences explain a theme (a life lesson) learned from this book. Use examples from the book to back up your point. Number your sentences.