

English III—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: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Other novels and plays from which to choose:

Assata: An Autobiography by Assata Shakur & Angela Davis

Twisted Tale Series-Book 1— A Whole New World by Liz Braswell

Twisted Tale Series-Book 2—Once Upon A Dream by Liz Braswell

Twisted Tale Series-Book 3– As Old As Time by Liz Braswell

Titanic by James Cameron

The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender by Leslye Walton

The Shack by William Paul Young

Dark Shadows by Marilyn Ross

The Circle by Dave Eggers

Walden by Henry Thoreau

Uncle Tom’s Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

Night by Elie Wiesel

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Catcher In the Rye by J.D. Salinger

A Night To Remember by Walter Lord

Dune by Frank Herbert

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart

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.