

9/10 Honors English Summer Assignment¹

Book Choice: Students should choose a title from the 9/10 summer assignment reading list (see below) to complete this essay assignment. Note: students are responsible for locating a copy of their chosen book.

Analytical Essay

After reading your book, identify one major theme (not simply a topic, but the lesson which the author wants us to learn about the topic) that is present throughout the book. You will discuss this theme in a well-developed five paragraph analytical essay.

Introductory Paragraph: Begin your essay with a four to six sentence introduction paragraph. Include a clear thesis statement that tells the reader the focus of your paper and introduces the theme you identified in the book.

Body Paragraphs: Identify three different moments or examples from the book where the theme you have chosen is present. Each body paragraph should focus on analyzing one of these three moments (discuss one moment or example per body paragraph).

- Each body paragraph must include a **minimum of two quotes** from the book that help support your assertion about the book's theme. Include the page number for each quote. Your quotes should reflect the entire book; do not choose quotes from only one section.
- Within your body paragraphs you should focus on analyzing each quote and explaining how it develops the theme you have identified. Some questions you can ask yourself as you write your body paragraphs are: What is the quote saying? What is the significance of the quote in terms of the larger context of the book? How is the theme I chose present in this quote? *Do not simply retell the story or summarize the plot of the book. Focus on analyzing and explaining your point of view.*
- Each body paragraph should be developed in eight to twelve sentences.

Concluding Paragraph: Finish your essay with a three to five sentence conclusion that restates your main points and provides a clear wrap up to your discussion.

Important Ideas to Remember:

- Avoid using the first person ("I" and "me") in your paper.
- Do not use the phrases "I think" or "I believe."
- Do not use the second person ("you" or "your").
- Do not address the reader directly ("Have you ever wondered? etc...").
- Do not end your paper with, "In conclusion...".
- This paper should demonstrate your ability to analyze literature and your ability to write fluently.
- Your paper should be free of spelling and grammar errors. **Proofread your paper.**

Overview of Requirements:

- **Essay is due the first day of class!**
- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins.
- Include a creative title.
- Students should bring the book to the first day of class.

¹ Last Updated May 2015

- Bring the paper to class stapled together. Please do not put your paper in a folder, binder or plastic sleeve. Do not decorate the cover. The content of your essay is most important.
- Questions about the summer assignment may be addressed to Mr. Marc Elin at melin@wusd.org

English 9/10 Honors Summer Assignment-Approved Reading List

Fiction:

Purple Hibiscus--Adichie
Secret Life of Bees--Kidd
Thousand Splendid Suns **or** *Kite Runner*--Hosseini
The Kitchen God's Wife--Tan
Snow Falling on Cedars--Guterson
The Good Earth--Buck
Watership Down--Adams
The Golden Compass--Pullman
Cold Sassy Tree--Burns
House of the Spirits--Allende

Historical Fiction

Red Badge of Courage--Crane
The Help--Stockett
Honolulu--Brennert
The Pillars of the Earth--Follett
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society--Shaffer and Barrows
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan--See

Science Fiction

The Illustrated Man--Bradbury
Flowers for Algernon--Keyes
Stranger in a Strange Land--Heinlein
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy--Adams
The Time Machine--Wells
2001: A Space Odyssey--Clarke

Classics

Gulliver's Travels--Swift
Don Quixote--Cervantes Saavedra
Emma--Austen
Robinson Crusoe--Defoe
Madame Bovary—Flaubert
The Count of Monte Cristo (Robin Buss translation)--Dumas

