

Summer Reading Assignment: 2019

1. READING to enjoy -- these books may be purchased or ordered from your favorite local book store or online. (I buy most of my books used for a very low price online.) Be sure to allow for delivery if you must order any of the titles. The books should be available in libraries as well. **Because you will need quotations, mark significant sections of each work as you read.**

* *The Wind-up Bird Chronicle* -- Haruki Murakami (translated from Japanese)

* *Inferno* -- Dante Alighieri (translated from Italian)

* **(SUGGESTED, BUT NOT REQUIRED) *Mythology***—Edith Hamilton. Reading Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and having some Bible background will be invaluable sources for our discussions throughout the year. There is no written assignment for this reading.

2. Writing assignment:

Many writers, including the novelist, Haruki Murakami, and the epic poet, Dante Alighieri, explore the various facets of a character by having him or her go on a journey. In both works, the physical journey is a metaphor for a psychological or spiritual journey. Such use of this metaphorical technique reveals true and believable **aspects of the human experience -- the purpose of all great literature.**

After carefully reading these two works and annotating them, write a single, unified essay (at least four typed pages) with close to equal words devoted to each of the two texts. **Your essay should explore the authors' overt or suggested views of an ideal world, and how these views contribute to the meaning of each work as a whole.** You will be comparing and contrasting the various techniques, details, and purposes of each author. Be sure to structure your essay according to standard essay format: a thesis statement at the end of your introductory paragraph, **specific** supporting details from each text in your body paragraphs (including relevant quotations from the works), and a concluding paragraph beginning with an intensified thesis statement. Use appropriate transitional devices to ensure coherence. Use the quotations guide on the back for including quotations in your essay.

The tone of your paper should be persuasive, so be sure to support your thesis (**WITHOUT** using first person -- ~~I think, I feel, I believe, in my opinion, or in this writer's opinion~~). Should you use secondary sources, document using MLA style. Wikipedia and Spark Notes (and similar products) are NOT acceptable academic sources. Do not list any such source on a Works Cited page.

DOUBLE-SPACE ALL TYPED WORK--12-point font, Times New Roman or equivalent, one-inch margins on all four sides. NO COVER SHEETS or PLASTIC FOLDERS, PLEASE.

3. Compile a list of twenty-five new-to-you vocabulary words and their definitions from the two works.

AVOID PLOT SUMMARY. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE ONLINE or OTHER SOURCES.

DO NOT SHARE YOUR WORK OR POST IT ONLINE FOR OTHERS TO COPY.

This assignment is due the first day of school in the fall.

Essays and vocabulary will not be accepted after the first day of school in August, 2019

Above all, read thoughtfully and enjoy.

OTHER TEXTS YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR JUNIOR YEAR IN ENGLISH:

A Doll's House Henrik Ibsen (any translation)

Heart of Darkness Josef Conrad

Hamlet William Shakespeare

An introducing phrase or orienter plus the quotation:

- ✓ In this poem it is creation, not a hypothetical creator, that is supremely awesome. [argument sentence]. The speaker asks, "What immortal hand or eye / Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?" [data sentence; orienter before quote]
- ✓ Gatsby is not to be regarded as a personal failure. [argument sentence] "Gatsby turned out all right at the end" (176), according to Nick. [data sentence; orienter after quote]
- ✓ "I know you blame me," Mrs. Compson tells Jason (47). [data sentence; orienter after quote] Is she expressing her own sense of guilt? [argument sentence]

An assertion of your own and a colon plus the quotation:

- ✓ Vivian hates the knights for scorning her, and she dreams of achieving glory by destroying Merlin's: "I have made his glory mine" (390).
- ✓ Fitzgerald gives Nick a muted tribute to the hero: "Gatsby turned out all right at the end" (176).
- ✓ Cassio represents not only a political but also a personal threat to Iago: "He hath a daily beauty in his life / That makes me ugly . . ." (5.1.19-20).

An assertion of your own with quoted material worked in:

- ✓ For Nick, who remarks that Gatsby "turned out all right" (176), the hero deserves respect but perhaps does not inspire great admiration.
- ✓ Even according to Cleopatra, Mark Antony's "duty" is to the Roman state.

Clarity and Readability: Some Guidelines

- Introduce a quotation either by indicating what it is intended to show or by naming its source, or both. For non-narrative poetry, it's customary to attribute quotations to "the speaker"; for a story with a narrator, to "the narrator." For plays, novels, and other works with characters, identify characters as you quote them.
- Do not use two quotations in a row, without intervening material of your own.
- Tense is a tricky issue. It's customary in literary analysis to use the present tense; it is at the present time that you (and your reader) are looking at the text. But events in a narrative or drama take place in a time sequence. You will often need to use a past tense to refer to events that took place before the moment you are presently discussing:

When he hears Cordelia's answer, Lear seems surprised, but not dumbfounded. He advises her to "mend [her] speech a little." He had expected her to praise him the most; but compared to her sisters', her remarks seem almost insulting (1.1.95).