

8 -12 Summer Reading Assignment

Texts

There is no list from which upper school students select a book to read. Instead, the entire grade reads the same book. Students are required to **purchase and annotate the text**. Students should be prepared for a reading comprehension test at the beginning of the school year. They should also be prepared to participate in a Socratic discussion of the text in detail during the first week of school.

Incoming 8th: Life in a Jar

ISBN: 978-0-9841113-1-2

Incoming 9th: Night by Elie Wiesel

ISBN: 10-0553272535

Incoming 10th: To Kill a Mockingbird

ISBN: 978-0-446-31078-9

Incoming 11th: The Old Man and the Sea

ISBN: 978-0-684-80122-3

Incoming 12th: Pride and Prejudice

ISBN: 978-0-553-21310-2

Assignment

Students write a composition analyzing their text based upon the **Five Elements of Fiction**, then connecting the text to an outside idea. Students should write one paragraph for each of the five elements and one text connection paragraph meeting the criteria outlined below. Element paragraphs can be in any order that achieves a logical and pleasing flow for the overall composition. The text connection paragraph must be the final paragraph of the composition. Each paragraph must contain a minimum of five sentences. Each paragraph should include a topic sentence, body sentences, and a conclusion sentence. Each paragraph also must include some textual evidence with **cited page numbers**. 8th -12th Grade students must include five pieces of cited evidence. (MLA format)

Five Elements of Fiction

Setting: Identify the time and place of the story. Describe the place according to imagery from the text. Note any setting details that are important for symbolic or thematic interpretation.

8 -12 Summer Reading Assignment

Character: Identify the major and minor characters, then pick one character on whom to focus and do the following: -

- 1) Identify any literary terms that apply to them (protagonist, antagonist, hero, villain, eponymous, fatal flaw, foils, agency, Christ figure, personification, types, etc.)
- 2) Characterize them including both exterior and interior character traits.
- 3) Describe their character arc and identify whether it is positive, negative, or flat.

Plot: Recount the major events in the story and identify their connections with the parts of a narrative/dramatic arc (exposition, inciting incident, rising action, crisis, climax, falling action, resolution, denouement). Note the central conflict of the story and whether it is internal or external. If applicable, note plot devices such as foreshadowing, cliffhangers, flashbacks, embedded/nested narrative, or prophecy/fulfillment.

Style: Identify important aspects of how the author presents the story such as details about form, genre, point of view, the voice of the narrator (person, reliability, fallibility, omniscience, subjective/objective, alignment, intrusion, direct address, free indirect discourse, etc), **or** frequently used literary devices (imagery, personification, prophecy/fulfillment, dialect, irony, allusion, symbolism, archaism, metaphor, simile, paradox, juxtaposition, epithets, proverbs, parody, hyperbole, embedded/nested narrative, etc.).

Theme: Identify one of the main ideas the story conveys and what the text shows us about that idea. Make sure it is an idea that is large enough to connect many smaller points to the text.

Text Connection: Conclude with a paragraph that connects the text to an outside idea. Your paragraph may focus on any one of the following text connections: -

- 1) Text to self - How does the text connect with something from your personality or personal experience?
- 2) Text to text - How does the text connect to another text that you have read?
- 3) Text to faith - How does the text connect with your Catholic faith?
- 4) Text to world - How does the text connect with events in our current society?

8 -12 Summer Reading Assignment

Notes on Format and Grading

- MLA format
- All papers are to be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins, 12 -point Times New Roman font, and staples in the top left corner
- 3 - 5 pages in length
- In the top left corner of the first page - record your full name, date, class name, and the assignment name
- Avoid first, or second person pronouns, including imperative sentences with an implied second person subject. Text to self connection paragraphs are the ONE exception to this rule.
- Composition is a crucial component of your grade, you should **proofread carefully**.
- Papers will be submitted to your English teacher, Mr. Silva, on the FIRST day of school.
- Each student must bring TWO stapled copies of their paper. One will be submitted to the teacher for grading. The other must be brought to class **every day** to aid in discussion.
- The teacher will assign a grade based upon composition, textual interpretation, and whether the above assignment criteria are met.
- If you have questions about how to complete this assignment, then please contact the teacher, Mr. Silva (bsilva@hfaemail.org).