

Dear students,

Here are some **terms and definitions** to assist you in your summer reading essay. Please see the directions that follow these terms.

Protagonist – The main character of a story. The protagonist makes key decisions that affect the plot.

Antagonist – A character who opposes the protagonist. An antagonist can be a group of people as well as a single character. Note that not every story has a specific antagonist.

Foil – A foil is present to expose something essential about the protagonist. Usually a Foil will be similar to the Protagonist in one key way and different in another. In contrast, an antagonist seeks to **oppose/thwart** something essential in the protagonist.

Dynamic character – A character who undergoes some important change in the events of a story.

Static character – A character that does not change throughout the course of a story.

Theme – Theme is an important underlying message or a big idea woven throughout the story.

Conflict Types -

Man vs Man – Two characters struggling against one another.

Man vs Self – Conflict that occurs within a character's mind.

Man vs Nature – External struggling positioning the character against an animal or nature.

Man vs Society – The main character is struggling with society or societal norms.

Plot development:

Exposition – Background on characters or setting at the beginning of the novel

Inciting Incident – The event that sets the main plot in motion.

Rising action – The section of the plot where events are leading up to a climax. Tension is building in the story.

Climax – The most dramatic point or points in the novel. The protagonist usually faces intense conflict or must make a decision that determines the outcome of the plot.

Falling action – The action is no longer rising or at its most intense point, the story is beginning to slow down.

Resolution – The part in the story where the main conflict or problem is resolved.

Assignment:

Students entering sixth grade and seventh grade, please prepare an essay for submission the first day of school during your English class period. For your essay, please attend to the following instructions.

Your essay should be five paragraphs in length. Introduction, three body paragraphs and a concluding paragraph.

Introduction: In this paragraph include the title of the book, the author's name, the genre and a one-to-two sentence summary of what the book is about. Remember, if you are typing your essay, a book title is *italicized*. If you are hand-writing your essay, remember a book title is underlined.

First body paragraph: your first body paragraph should be a brief summary of the plot. You should use the vocabulary associated with plot development in your summary. I have listed the plot terms above. In your summary, please include page numbers where you notice the events that include the exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. If there is more than one climax in the novel, you can mention this, but you only need to note one climax that you deem is significant to the movement of the story.

Second body paragraph: Here is where I would like for you to focus on a few characters. Identify the protagonist of the story and the antagonist (if any). Explain how the antagonist is trying to thwart the efforts of the main character. In addition, please identify any conflict you notice that the protagonist of the story is facing (one type of conflict will be sufficient). See the choices listed above and be certain to include a page number to support your claim. You may paraphrase or use a direct quote as support.

Third body paragraph: Identify a theme from the text and use textual evidence to prove that it is a theme. Again, you may paraphrase or use direct quotes as support. Most books have more than one theme, but I only want you to identify one. Sixth grade students, if you are having trouble finding specific page numbers to support your response, please just tell me why you think this theme is present in the novel.

Conclusion: In this paragraph, I would just like for you to give an honest assessment of the novel. Do you enjoy this author's writing style? Explain. Do you connect with any characters in the novel, why or why not? Would you recommend this novel? There is no correct answer, I just would like for you to be honest in your assessment and explain your thinking.

You may hand write this essay or type it. If you type it, please use Times New Roman font, size 12 and double space your work. Please center your title and use the example I have provided.

Below is an example of how to format the essay.

Your full name

Mr. Breitenbeck

English 6 or 7 (depending on the grade you're entering)

Date

Literature Analysis

Five indented paragraphs that meet the requirements listed above. Do not title the individual paragraphs.

Literature Choices for the 2024-2025 school year summer reading:

6th *Treasure Island* - ISBN - 13 978-0-486-27559-8

7th *Anne of Green Gables* - ISBN - 978-0-553-21313-3