

Advanced Placement United States History

Summer Reading Assignment

Objectives:

- Learn to read more carefully and critically.
- Become engaged with the subject matter—question it, agree with it, disagree with it, compare it to other issues, make connections.
- Begin to personalize the material in history.
- Come to see reading and writing as a way of exploring and learning about a subject, rather than just a product to be judged.
- Move from merely summarizing material into analyzing, interpreting and evaluating material.
- Make meaning for yourself rather than look to teachers for the “right answers.”
- Become a more effective reader and thinker.

Overview: Each student will be required to read one novel during the summer and one novel during the year. Of course you are all encouraged to read a great deal more on your own.

Book 1: A Quotes Project.

This assignment is due the first meeting of the class.

Follow the guidelines below:

Assignment: Select one of the following novels: each student must acquire the book of their choice on their own (if you have any difficulty please contact me at ohoughton@mvyps.org) The response must be typed following the guidelines presented later in this assignment.

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Black Boy by Richard Wright

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

Silent Spring by Rachel Carlson

As you read the novel, collect quotes/passages from throughout the entire novel using the following procedure.

Procedure: Use sticky notes to mark passages as you read. Every time you encounter a particularly important, provocative, dramatic, surprising, even disturbing passage, mark it with a sticky note. Only when you have completed the entire novel will you look at all those passages and decide which to toss out and which to keep. So when you are done reading the novel, you will select at least 10 SIGNIFICANT passages from throughout the book. (The passages must be at least three sentences in length.) Copy the passages down (including the page numbers) and then write about each passage in the following ways: You will do the following steps for 9 of the 10 quotes. (Please note: The typing directions follow the assignments!!!!)

1. Response paragraph 1 is a well-written paragraph of at least 100-150 words explaining how the passage “fits” into the novel (Does the passage add to the character development? To the plot line? To the details of the setting? And so forth). Discuss the importance of the passage to the book’s message or meaning or theme.

2. Response paragraph 2 is a well-written paragraph of at least 100-150 words, reacting to the passage as a reader. Make the teacher understand why you have selected this passage. Don’t just summarize the plot. Be sure to include a variety of responses. To generate responses, you can consider the following as suggested prompts or questions:

Do you find the author’s use of language appealing or powerful?

Does the passage jump off the page as a great descriptive passage?

Does it prompt a strong response from you as you read it?

Does it present itself as so well-crafted that you just love the sound of it?

Is the language beautiful, descriptive, graphic?

Is it particularly meaningful?

Is it a highpoint in the book?

Do you find yourself in agreement/disagreement with the ideas expressed?

Does the passage make you laugh out loud or make you melancholy or make you something else?

Does the author or the character raise intriguing questions or issues?

Does the passage challenge or expand your thinking?

Does the passage impress, intrigue, horrify, or puzzle you?

You are not limited to the above list, nor do I expect you to answer all of the above questions. But your responses to the passages should clearly explain to us why these passages mean

something to you, why these passages caught your attention. Remember you need two quality paragraphs per quote.

Note: If you find you keep responding in the same way, if you keep saying the same thing over and over, be sure to use some of the above prompts.

3. Next, select another, different passage (this is the 10th quote) as “The Quote of the Book.” This quote/passage is one that captures the essence—the true meaning—of the novel for you, the reader. In a well-written paragraph of at least 150-200 words, explain exactly how this passage is the perfect quote from the book. (Think of this as the one passage that you would absolutely want saved should your book ever be lost or destroyed.)

Important points for typing this project:

- All aspects of this assignment must be typed. Single space the passage/quote and double space your paragraphs.
- Passages/quotes must be at least three sentences long. Your collection of passages should include many that are longer than three sentences.
- Begin each quoted passage on a new page.
- All passages must be in quotation marks—and be sure to copy the passage exactly as it appears in the novel. Do not use ellipses (. . .).
- All passages must include the page number from which they are taken. Cite the page numbers in parenthesis, like this: (145). You don’t need any other information.
- Your paragraphs need to be of quality and have depth. A paragraph of two or three sentences is not acceptable. You need 100-150 words.
- You need a cover page with your name, the title of the novel, the author, the publisher, the place of publication, and the date of publication
- The due date is the first class. Late work will be penalized.

Here is a partial example of the above assignment:

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“Rage was in his voice, and Adam felt the creeping fear; but he knew also that he had a moment left. Too many times he had seen the destructive machine that chopped down anything standing in the way. Rage came first and then a coldness, a possession; noncommittal eyes and a pleased smile and no voice at all, only a whisper.(29)

This passage is crucial because it develops not only the character of Charles and Adam, but the plot and theme of the novel as well. Charles endeavored to buy his father's admiration whereas Adam offered a more sentimental present. This simple example provides so much about each of their characters. Charles so despised his rejection that he laid his anger and frustration on Adam, seeking a sort of revenge. A dread of rejection...

What an intriguing passage! So many questions are raised after reading this section. How could a human be so motivated to murder simply out of rejection? Why is there such a feeling of competition within Charles, yet Adam seeks to appear inadequate? This quote is vividly descriptive, and the reader feels the panic that Adam felt and the compassion that Charles deserves. The quote appeals to the reader simply because all people have suffered a frustration at not.....