

## English 12 Summer Reading Assignment

In the English Department's attempt to provide rich and varied reading experiences for our students, we have selected titles for the summer reading lists written mostly by contemporary authors. Some selections are focused toward mature readers. We encourage parents to assist their children in selecting interesting, appropriate titles for their summer reading. *Barnes & Noble's* website provides information including Lexile level, book reviews, and age levels for specific titles. If no age level is specified in the "Product Details" section on the *Barnes & Noble* site, the book may be focused toward mature readers for various reasons including mature themes or mature content. *Barnes & Noble* is suggested as a resource only, not an endorsement of any specific bookseller. This summer students will be required to read two novels.

**Part One- Choose ONE book and essay from the list below.**

### **Topics and Titles:**

Below are the novels I have chosen for your summer reading assignment. Choose **ONE** titles from the list below. You will be responsible for reading **ONE** of the novels listed over the course of the summer and the completed essays will be due when we start school in August. The actual date will be when the second day of school falls. If you wish to read a book outside of this list it must be grade level appropriate and it must be approved by me. You may find these titles at most *Barnes & Noble Booksellers* or you can check one out from your local library. Our list of books has been submitted to the Salem, NH store. If you need to email me you can my email address is: [l.peterson@gsaanh.com](mailto:l.peterson@gsaanh.com).

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*Into the Wild* by John Krakauer  
*Beloved* by Toni Morrison  
*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison  
*Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

### **Writing Assignment Guidelines:**

After reading, choose two topics from the list below and write two well-constructed essays. Include the topic you are addressing in your essay at the top of your essay. Each

essay must be **3 to 5 pages** in length. If you struggle to find a prompt that fits your book, email me and I will help you. I am open to altering any essay to fit your needs as well as the piece of literature chosen. All essays **REQUIRE** an **MLA** works cited page and in-text/parenthetical reference.

**Note:** All work must be handed in as a shared *googledoc*. If you do not have access to our Google system yet, you may attach a word document to an email.

**Note:** You have the option of submitting a draft prior to the due date for editing suggestions.

**Note:** Many of the novels on the list of titles have been made into films, films that I have seen. Please do not substitute your reading by viewing the film, honestly I will be able to tell if you have watched the film over the novel and you will not receive credit for the essay. If you wish to write a comparison piece you may email me and we can discuss that type of essay instead of one of the choices below.

### **Writing Assignment Topics:**

1. What makes a classic? Why is the book you've chosen to read considered a classic? Do you agree with its designation? If you agree or disagree why has this particular novel been chosen as an exemplar to be used in high school classes? Write a thoughtful, critical essay in which you examine the use of classic novels in the classroom. Take a stance and make claims to support your claim.
2. Often in literature, there is a heroic figure, or archetype. Discuss the characteristics of an archetype, using specific examples from a novel on the list.
3. Using a novel from the list, explain how it might influence change in society.
4. A struggle between two or more opposing forces in a work is called conflict. Cite a piece of literature and explain the conflict embodied in the work.
5. The climax of a work is when all of the events come to a breaking point. Using a novel from the list, explain the events that lead to the climax, what happens at the climactic scene, and how the story changes after the climax.
6. Third person point of view is when the narrator has no part in the action. He or she is simply telling the story using the words he, she, or they. A story would be very different if it were told from the first person (using the pronoun I) point of view. Using a novel

written in the third person, discuss how it would be a very different story if it were told in the first person.

7. Explain the popularity of science fiction writing. Use a work from this genre to explain its appeal.

8. The protagonist in a story is usually the do-gooder, or the character that most readers empathize with. Identify a novel from the list where the author wants us to empathize with the antagonist, or evildoer. Explain by using details from that work.

9. Explain the most important lesson you learned from a piece of literature. Use specific details from a literary work you have read.

10. Frequently, popular novels are adapted into motion pictures. Discuss a novel that you have read and that has been made into a motion picture. Compare/contrast the plot, setting, and characterization in both mediums.

## **Part Two-**

### ***The Joy Luck Club***

#### **Summer Reading Essay**

**Directions:** Amy Tan, the author of *The Joy Luck Club*, is trying to show us that there are often two sides to a story and in this case it is that of mothers and daughters. Your essay on *The Joy Luck Club* should address why the mothers and daughters have misunderstandings that they do., you will have to explain the following:

1. How does the daughter view things? And why does she view things this way?
2. How does the mother view things? And why does he view things this way?
3. Why do these two views conflict? Why are they misunderstanding one another?
4. How do they come to resolve their misunderstandings?

#### **Writing Assignment Guidelines:**

After reading, choose two topics from the list below and write two well-constructed essays. Include the topic you are addressing in your essay at the top of your essay. Each essay must be **3 to 5 pages** in length. If you struggle to find a prompt that fits your book, email me and I will help you. I am open to altering any essay to fit your needs as well as the piece of literature chosen. All essays **REQUIRE** an **MLA** works cited page and in-text/parenthetical reference.

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**Common Core Standards Addressed-**

RI.12.10-By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend **literary nonfiction** at the high end of the grades 11-CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently.

RL.12.10- By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend **literature**, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of the grades 11-CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently.

W.12.1- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

W.12.2- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.