

Incoming 12th Grade Advanced Placement English Literature 2010 Summer Assignment

Anxiety & Influence: Literary Forms, is Highlands Theme for the Senior School Year

Required Texts: These texts will be used for summer reading and throughout the year.

<u>The Frogs and Other Plays</u> by Aristophanes (Translation by David Barrett)	ISBN: 13: 978-0140449693
<u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Sir Orfeo</u> (Translation by J.R.R. Tolkien)	ISBN: 13: 978-0345277602
<u>The Turn of the Screw, The Aspern Papers and Two Stories</u> by Henry James (Barnes & Noble Classic Edition)	ISBN: 13: 978-1593080433
<u>The Golem</u> (Translation by Mike Mitchell)	ISBN: 13: 978-1873982914

Bonus Texts: These are “optional” and must be done in the order given and see section II below for “warning”

1 st . Bonus: <u>Heart of Darkness</u> by Joseph Conrad (Barnes & Noble Classics Series)	ISBN: 13: 978-1593083267
2 nd . Bonus: <u>Secret Agent</u> by Joseph Conrad (Barnes & Noble Classics Series)	ISBN: 13: 978-1593083052
3 rd . Bonus: <u>Nostramo</u> by Joseph Conrad (Barnes & Noble Classics Series)	ISBN: 13: 978-1593081935

Supplemental Text Suggestions: (These are not required but are recommended student aids.)

<u>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</u>	ISBN: 13: 978-0060009427
<u>Dictionary of Literary Terms & Literary Theory</u> by J.A. Cuddon	ISBN: 13: 978-0140513639
<u>Facts on File: Classical and Biblical Allusions</u> by Martin Manser	ISBN: 13: 978-0816048694

I. Part One of Summer Reading Assignment: Write neatly (blue or black ink). No typed papers will be accepted. Please organize all of your writings in a 3” three-ring binder, divided with labeled tabs. Your binder is due on the second day of school. Thanks.

First: Read the play The Frogs by Aristophanes. As you read this two act play, choose five pieces of dialogue (one person speaking to another person) within each of the two acts that you feel is significant to the meaning/theme of each act. Copy the dialogue of the two characters. Then explain the significance (for ideas see the list of literary themes on reverse side) of each dialogue you chose, make sure to include the page number, act, and scene where the paragraph is located.

Second: In the book Sir Gawain and the Green Knight translated by J.R.R. Tolkien, there are three poems. **Read only “Sir Orfeo”.** Choose “one sentence or two” in each of the six stanzas (lines 1-24, 25-56, 57-174, 175-226, 227-280, 281-604) that you feel is significant to the meaning/theme of that individual stanza (Be careful, look at the punctuation. Some sentences go on for several lines.). Copy the “sentence (s).” Then explain the significance (for ideas see the list of literary themes on reverse side) of each sentence(s) you chose; make sure to include the page number where the sentence(s) is located. We will read and analyze the longer poems *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *Pearl* during the school year; so it would be great if you could read it, but it is not required for your summer reading.

Third: Choose only “one” of the books listed below for summer reading. We will read and analyze “both” books during the school year; so it would be great if you could read and do both, but you are required to do “one” of the following. Thanks and remember you are required to choose only “one” of the two listed below to complete your summer reading assignment.

Choice #1: In the book The Turn of the Screw, The Aspern Papers and Two Stories by Henry James, **read the following short stories: “The Beast in the Jungle” (6 chapters) and “The Jolly Corner” (3 chapters),** choose one paragraph within each chapter that you feel is significant to the meaning/theme of the chapter. Copy the paragraph. Then explain the significance (see list of literary themes on reverse side) of each paragraph you chose, make sure to include the page number where the paragraph is located. We will read and analyze the longer stories: *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Aspern Papers* during the school year; so it would be great if you could read them, but it is not required for your summer reading.

Choice #2: Read the novel The Golem (20 chapters), translated by Mike Mitchell. As you read the novel, choose a paragraph within each chapter (Sleep, Day, J, Prague, etc.) that you feel is significant to the meaning/theme of the section. Copy the paragraph. Then explain the significance (see list of literary themes on reverse side) of each paragraph you chose, make sure to include the page number where the paragraph is located.

II. Bonus Texts

This part of the summer reading is optional. You will receive *substantial* extra credit for doing this “Bonus” reading.

Warning: I will only consider scoring this optional assignment if the required work, above in Part One, is done to a standard of excellence. In other words, don’t bother doing the “Bonus” assignment unless you have done excellent and complete work on Part One, because I won’t count the “Bonus” work you have done.

First, read the novel Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad. As you read the novel, choose one paragraph within each chapter that you feel is significant to the meaning/theme of the chapter. Copy the paragraph. Then explain the significance (see list of literary themes on reverse side) of the paragraph you chose, make sure to include the page number where the paragraph is located. Title and then put your collection of paragraphs and explanations into the **Exams, Essays, and Responses** section of your English Binder. **Write neatly. No typed papers will be accepted.**

Second, read and do the same task with Secret Agent by Joseph Conrad

Third, read and do the same task with Nostramo by Joseph Conrad

REMEMBER: YOUR ENGLISH BINDER (3” Three Ring Notebook) WITH THE COMPLETED SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT IS DUE 2ND DAY OF SCHOOL.

(over: see list of Common Themes in Literature)

Read: These are a just a few of the *many* possible literary subjects and themes. The point to remember is that a subject is not a theme: a subject is some dimension of the human condition examined by the work; a theme is a statement, direct or implied, about the subject. The themes about the subjects on the list are still fairly general. As a critical writer discussing a particular literary work, you'll need to bring your observations about theme closer to the work.

Write: Choose a word, a sentence, or a paragraph from the text to focus upon. In your first sentence, make a direct or implied statement about the subject. In your second sentence, then, comment on the word/paragraph and the statement thematically (this is the "So What?" about the idea). In other words, expand the meaning of the word, sentence, or paragraph with its connection to the theme of the essay, novel, poem or play.

Common Themes in Literature

1. The Individual in Nature

- a. Nature is at war with each of us and proves our vulnerability.
- b. People are out of place in Nature and need technology to survive.
- c. People are destroying nature and themselves with uncontrolled technology.

2. The Individual in Society

- a. Society and a person's inner nature are always at war.
- b. Social influences determine a person's final destiny.
- c. Social influences can only complete inclinations formed by Nature.
- d. A person's identity is determined by place in society.
- e. In spite of the pressure to be among people, and individual is essentially alone and frightened.

3. An individual's Relation to the gods.

- a. The god(s) are benevolent and will reward human beings for overcoming evil and temptation.
- b. The gods mock the individual and torture him or her for presuming to be great.
- c. The gods are jealous of and constantly thwarts human aspiration to power and knowledge.
- d. The gods are indifferent toward human beings and let them run their undetermined course.
- e. There are no gods in whom people can place their faith or yearning for meaning in the universe.

4. Human Relations

- a. Marriage is a perpetual comedy bound to fail.
- b. Marriage is a relationship in which each partner is supported and enabled to grow.
- c. An old man marrying a young woman is destined to be a cuckold.
- d. Parents should not sacrifice all for a better life for their children.
- e. There are few friends who will make extreme sacrifices.

5. Growth and Initiation

- a. A boy and a girl must go through a special trial or series of trials before maturing.
- b. Manhood or womanhood is often established by an abrupt, random crisis, sometimes at an unusually early age.
- c. Aspects of childhood are retained in all of us, sometimes hindering growth, sometimes providing the only joy in later life.
- d. A person grows only in so far as he or she must face a crisis of confidence or identity.

6. Time

- a. Enjoy life now, for the present moment, because we all die too soon.
- b. By the time we understand life, there is too little left to live.

7. Death

- a. Death is part of living, giving life its final meaning.
- b. Death is the ultimate absurd joke on life.
- c. There is no death, only a different plane or mode of life without physical decay.
- d. Without love, death often appears to be the only alternative to life.

8. Alienation

- a. An individual is isolated from fellow human beings and foolishly tries to bridge the gaps.
- b. Through alienation comes self-knowledge.
- c. Modern culture is defective because it doesn't provide group ties which in primitive cultures makes alienation virtually impossible.

