Advanced Composition/ Great World Authors

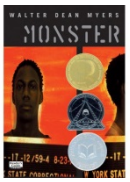
Grade: 11 Summer Reading Requirements

To future *Advanced Composition/ Great World Authors* Students and Parents

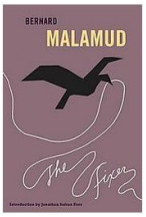
Welcome to an exciting summer!

Research shows that students who read continuously throughout the year improve their reading and writing skills altogether. What better way to prepare for the ACT? All students will be given reading assignments that pair the completed summer reading (the date is tentative).

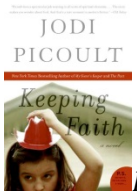
Below is a list of books for Summer Reading There are 5 books to choose from; you are to read 3 of them. Please do some research before purchasing these books. These books can be order through *amazon.com*, or if you should find another online source, please use it. Purchasing your own books will allow you to annotate within the book as opposed to keeping a reading journal or using untidy post-it notes.



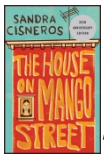
Monster by Walter Dean Myers



The Fixer by Bernard Malamud



Keeping Faith by Jodi Piccoult



The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

As You Read…Annotate each Text

Ideas for Annotating a Text:

Underline, star, highlight, box, circle whatever words, phrases, or sentences that catch your attention.

Write brief comments in the margins

• observations about what is being said or done

• what you are reminded of (people, feelings, places, moods)

• questions you have

• ideas that occur to you

• things that you agree or disagree with

• any connections you are making

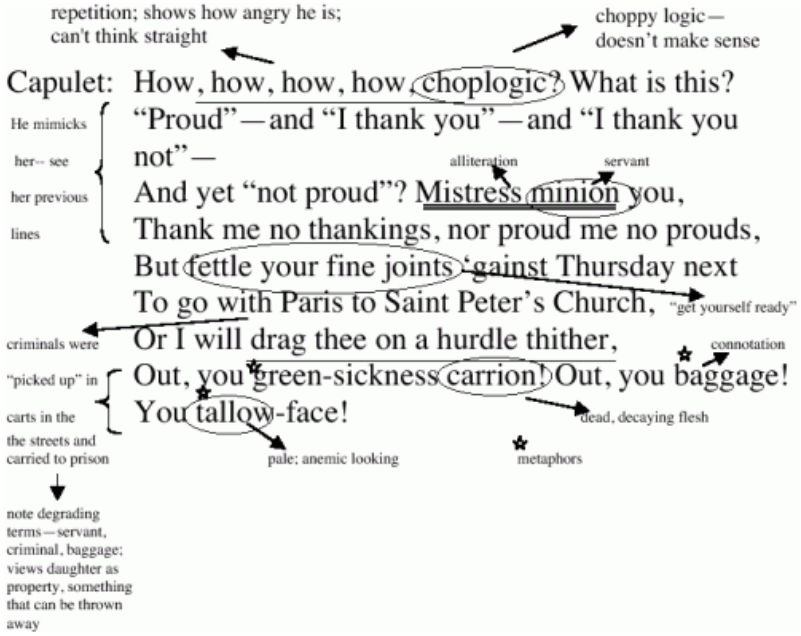
• summary comments

• identify themes being developed

• any literary devices being used

***Please Note: If you are unable to write in the books, create a min-reading journal or use sticky notes.

Whatever you choose, be able to fully analyze each novel you read and be prepared to develop 2 Essays.



If you have digital copies of the books, you must create an annotation notebook.

The Assignment…

When we return from summer vacation, you should be prepared to discuss the three novels read in the summer. I will be looking at your annotations as well as assigning 2 different types of essays.

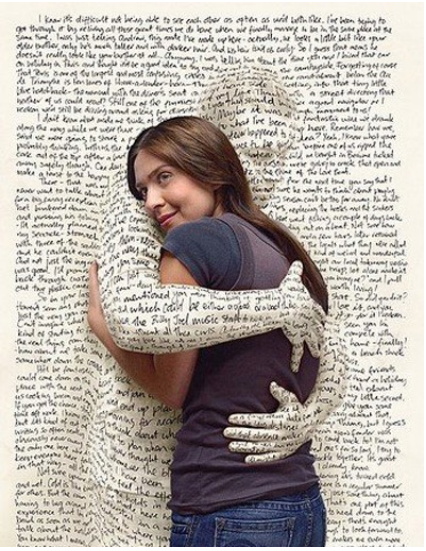
Essay 1: A Character Analysis

Essay 2: Compare/ Contrast Essay

I will give you a detailed description of each assignment when we return. I do not want you to "read" for anything in particular or distract yourself from the story, characters, etc. Your primary focus should not be strictly on the finished product (your essays), but rather on several aspects of the book and your interpretation of it.

Warning: You cannot wait until last minute to read these novels. Choose a pace that is comfortable for you and make it a priority to read a little every day as to not overwhelm yourself. Make it a goal to complete a novel every month of the summer, or give yourself a due date for each one. Whatever you choose, do not wait until last minute to start reading!

Take care and Happy Reading!
Mrs. Evans



I LOVE READING!

Summer Reading Essay Assignment

Both Essays should include an Introduction, Body, and Conclusion. This is to be written from 3rd person point of view and with formal vocabulary. Write to impress and explain how much you know about your reading.

Essay #1: Character Analysis

This essay should follow the format of essay writing and include ideas developed from the reader.

Choose a character from one of your three novels and develop an analysis of the character.

Focus on the purpose of the chosen character in the novel or when and how a sudden change occurs (the turning point) and why the character responds.

Essay #2: Compare/ Contrast Essay

This essay should follow the format of essay writing and include ideas developed from the reader.

Choose two of the three novels to compare and contrast. Pick a specific element from each novel

to focus on. You can compare two protagonists, themes, motifs, characters, etc. Whatever you choose, be specific and use examples to support your ideas.

Group Discussion #1

Before you begin your discussion write a simple summary of the three books that you read this summer. Each summary should consist of the novel's main focus, a beginning, middle, and end. I will share an example with you.

Summary:

Summary:

Summary:

Write down specific "likes" and "dislikes" of the novels. I will share my own with you. I would rather you focus on more than just comprehension.

Likes:

Dislikes

Likes:

Dislikes:

Likes:

Dislikes:

Next, write down specific moments from each novel that took you by surprised or turning points that you did not expect. Such as…

Moments:

Moments:

Moments:

Now you are prepared to share with your group. Not everyone in your group has read the same novel so welcome questions and answer them to the best of your ability. Ask questions about other novels. There may have been something you missed out on.

Summer Reading Essay Assignment

Essay of Critical Analysis #1

Discuss an aspect of the novel, such as theme, characterization, structure, imagery, narrative techniques, or prose style. Possible topics:

- *In general:* The role or treatment of human beings, the significance of the title, freedom of choice, violence and/or the abuse of power, the role of the family or the relationship of parents and children, the power of determination and education the importance of faith, portrayal of society and/or an institution, such as the justice system in *Monster*, *The Fixer*…

Thoughts?

- The novel's universal appeal, representative of the aloneness of human beings, the representative of the powerlessness of human beings, an Everyman?, the emotionally repressed person, true religion or self interest, significance of the imagery, a spiritual autobiography.

Thoughts?

- The need for power and control, the effect of society's customs, rules, public opinion, code of behavior, power struggle between character, ideals, society, family, friendship, the development of a specific character, the physical journey as a moral, psychological, and/or spiritual journey, appearance versus reality

Thoughts?

Guidelines for the Summer Reading Essay Assignment

Creative Subject (experiment with a creative title): I want you to think "Outside of the Box" (oh, Mrs. Evans, how cliché). Choose a topic that YOU want to explore but also that is original. Look at the suggestions that I've given you. Are there any topics that really speak to you? That you can develop?

5 paragraphs (at least): This includes Intro (Hook, Bridge Sentences, Thesis Statement that includes main points), Body (at least three paragraphs that prove three points, what are you trying to prove, is it coming across, is it supported), Conclusion (summarizing, restating thesis, tying it back to the hook)

Evidence: Details from the text and specific quotes to support your Main Points (Body Paragraphs)

Language: Extended Vocabulary (no-no words, things, stuff, good, bad), Transitions (take wording from previous sentence in previous paragraph and use it to introduce new paragraph), 3rd person POV ("one", "the reader", "the audience")

Due Date:

Compare, Contrast Essay of Social or General Analysis #2

Choose a character, a statement, a theme, an occurrence, an image, or a scene in a novel which leads you into an analysis of some aspect of society today

Compare and Contrast 2 Characters from different novels.

To think about: struggles, journey, characteristics, author's description, conflict, significance…

Thoughts?

The Expectations Listed above apply to this Essay as well!

Due Date:

Group Discussion #2

Before we look at the actual assignment, I would like you to brainstorm a little with your groups.

Think about characters that should be noted and why. Think about some of the minor characters in each novel. What purpose do they serve? What is the author "saying" with the representation of this character? Do we learn any lessons from them?

Characters:

Minor:

Were there any specific turning points in the novel(s) that stimulated a change in the character? How did they respond to situations?

Character changes:

Character responses:

Guided Topic Storms and Brainstorms

Possible Topics:

Formulated Thesis:

3 Examples (in general, and then more specific):

Share with your group. Give feedback.

My Brainstorms:

What does the novel say about "human nature"?

- Prisoners creating a sense of reality: Yakov, Steve Harmon
- The Judicial System
- The accused: guilty until proven innocent
- Stereotypes and assumptions with race, religion: Steve and Yakov, Papa, Faith's Guard
- Children: innocence, imagination, survival tactics: Esperanza, Steve, Faith
- Discovering hope/ faith in the bleakest of times: Mac and Yakov, Mariah and Ian
- Parents/ Adults protecting the young: Steve's parents, O'Brien, Mac, Raisl, Schmuel, Mariah
- Voice of Reason: Schmuel, O'Brien, Millie
- Lack of adult influence: Esperanza, Faith
- The ambiguous nature of Steve's innocence: other characters? Faith
- Relationship and Love: Mac's weekend, Mariah and Faith
- Self Worth: Mariah, Esperanza
- Story Organization: hope, serene ideal, slapped with tragedy, hope again, Yakov, Mac, Mariah, Esperanza
- Transitions: Keeping Faith
- POV changes

What else can we add to the list?

Group Discussion #4

Compare and Contrast

Refer to the assignment handout. I will give you an example of my own prepared group discussion.

Choose a statement, a theme, an occurrence, an image, or a scene in a novel which leads you into an analysis of some aspect of society today.

Characters with similar struggles, behaviors, backgrounds:

Author's voice: