

To: English III AP students - 2009-2010 School year
From: Mrs. Gowe
Re: Summer reading requirements
Date: May, 2009

For AP English Language and Composition students will be required to read two books before class begins.

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

and **one** of the following:

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X

Black Boy by Richard Wright

The Great Gatsby by F.Scott Fitzgerald

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

On the first day of class, you will take a quiz on The Scarlet Letter . If you read the book during the summer, it would be wise to review the book carefully before that class period.

As you read the second required book - chosen from the four given above - use post-it notes to mark passages in the book (no more than two-three sentences each) which strike you as being important, provocative, dramatic, surprising, or even disturbing. Once you have completed the novel, look back at all the passages that you have marked and pick three (3) of them.

- Copy the passages on to your paper - with page numbers - and write two paragraphs about each quote.
- In the first paragraph, explain how the passage "fits" into the novel. Does the passage add to character development, the plot line, the details of the setting, or what? Discuss the importance of the passage to the book's message or meaning or theme?
- In the second paragraph, react to the passage as a reader. Explain why you have selected this passage. Use the following questions as guides:
 - Why does the passage impress, intrigue, horrify or puzzle you?
 - Do you find the author's use of language particularly powerful?
 - Does the passage prompt a strong emotional response from you?
 - Is the passage particularly meaningful - or a high point in the book?
 - Do you find yourself in agreement/disagreement with the ideas expressed?
 - Does the passage remind you of a situation you have lived as well?
 - Does the passage make you laugh out loud or make you melancholy or something else?
 - Does the author raise intriguing questions or issues?

Does the passage challenge or expand your thinking?

You are not limited to the above list, nor do I expect you to answer all of the above. Your responses should clearly explain to me why these passages mean something to you, and why they caught your attention.

- Then select another, different passage as "the quote of the book." **This will be your 4th quote.** Pick that one passage that captures the essence - the true meaning - of the book for you, the reader. In a paragraph explain exactly how this passage is the one perfect quote from the book.
- Complete 2 Thinking in Metaphors. Choose 1 main character and one main event in the text. Create a metaphor and because statement. Then add 2 commentary sentences for each metaphor explaining how they are similar. (See attached sheet for model)
- Lastly, you need to write me a reflective letter about reading this novel and creating your quotes paper. Write to me about the thoughts and feelings and observations and new insights you experienced while reading your novel. Write to me about marking the quotes as you read and then selecting the ones to keep. Some things to think about for your letter may include, but are not exclusive to:

Tell me what you worked on the hardest or struggled with most for this assignment.

Share with me what you think you did well: what worked, really worked

Show me where you were drawn into the book and where you were bored

Identify in your opinion the author's greatest strength and weakness

Discuss in what ways you could relate to the book

Explore what value, besides entertainment, this book has

Share your overall impression of the book

Discuss if you found yourself changing your mind about the book

Your reflective letter is your chance to "talk" with me about your book, this project, and your experiences in completing this assignment.

Important stuff

- Reflective letter must be typed.
- Passages/quotes must be from throughout the entire novel - beginning to end.
- All passages must be in quotation marks - and be sure to copy the passage exactly as it appears in your book.
- All passages must include the page number from which it is taken.
- This assignment is due on the first day of class - late assignments will receive reduced credit.
- I will be glad to answer questions about this assignment or the class in general by e-mail. The e-mail that I check over the summer (not every day - but at least several times a week) is gowel@dcpsmd.org

Thinking in Metaphors

Your first sentence should contain the metaphor and then explain it carefully in a worded "because" statement. Then, add two sentences of commentary that show how your metaphor is an apt comparison given the nature of the character or event. **Metaphor- compares two unlike things without using "like" or "as".**

Ex. Americans are asteroids because they come from an older world to be unique in size, color, and shape. Americans come from various other countries in Europe and Africa to meld into one entity called an American. They are as diverse and unique as asteroids with no two being the exact same in appearance or background.