

OAKBROOK SUMMER 2017 READING ASSIGNMENT:

Rising Sophomores (10th) in English II

Read the *unabridged* version of the assigned text for the course you are taking and respond to the prompt in a well-developed essay. Do not consult secondary sources. Bring your copy of the book and your essay to the first full day of class on August 15. Texts should be purchased so you can annotate them thoroughly. Annotation** will count as a first term quiz grade.

English II HONORS: *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Scarlet Letter is set in 1600s colonial America but was written in the mid-19th century, when the Romantic movement was significant in the development of American Literature. Before reading the book, research briefly the concepts of Romanticism and anti-transcendentalism for context. You may reference these ideas in the introduction of your paper. Also, the “Custom House” introductory reading is critical to understanding the context of the novel.

Assignment: In a well-developed essay, analyze the character of Hester’s child Pearl and her development throughout the novel. Answer the following question: Is the Pearl’s character a metaphor or a symbol?

Consider the following: Are there different comparisons of Pearl throughout the course of the novel? What ideas/connotations may Pearl symbolize or represent? Or, is she explicitly compared to other objects and concepts? Annotate your copy of the text, noting passages of Hawthorne’s description while you read. Give specific examples from the text to support your position. Consult an authoritative text for the definitions of symbol and metaphor to effectively this question.

English II CP: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain

Assignment: Mark Twain uses *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to convey a point of view regarding the issue of slavery in the antebellum Mississippi River era. Explain how Huck’s attitude toward slaves and slavery changes throughout the novel, based on his personal relationship with Jim. Use specific quotes from the text to support your answer. (Hint: Jim’s choice of words is key in revealing his attitude toward this subject.)

Basic requirements:

12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, stapled, no extra spacing.

MLA format (correct heading and header numbered after first page)

3-page typed minimum for honors (2-page min. for CP).

Use specific quotations from the text (parenthetical citations) and document correctly; see

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> for MLA Handbook 8th edition guidelines.

Include a works cited page that lists your edition of the text.

****Annotation:** In writing, comment on the significance of passages in the text while you read. Write notes in the margins of the book about character, symbolism, theme, tone or any other aspects of the text you find significant.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea(s) discussed in your paper.**
Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.
(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem "Thanatopsis." "The last bitter hour."
This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In "Thanatopsis," William Cullen Bryant explores the "last bitter hour" (9), that hour of death which comes to all people.

- 4. When using direct quotations, cite the page number in parentheses after the quotation.**

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie's life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like "a rut in the road" (72); Janie has no hope for the future.

- 5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.**
- 6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**
- 7. Do not use contractions.**
- 8. Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, etc.).**
- 9. Your essay must be in MLA format, double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one inch margins.**
- 10. Include name, date, and period in the upper left corner of your paper. Number all pages after the first page.**

