

## English 2 Summer Reading List

You are to read three books from the following list. You will be tested on the books listed (to help you with the tests--- while reading the novel, make a complete list of all characters in the book, and a list of events as they happen in the novel).

You will be give an oral report on another book from the list. You will write an essay on the third book you read. **Your essay is due on the first full day of school. Late essays will not be accepted.**

Your essay must be typed. All three assignments have the value of test grades.

You will be tested on:

The Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Other novels and plays from which to choose:

Animal Farm by George Orwell

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Black Ships Before Troy by Rosemary Sutcliff

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

The Chronicles of Narnia (any volume) by C.S. Lewis

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas

Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

My Name is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok

Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel

The Good Earth by Pearl Buck

Some things to do before reading the novel on which you will be writing:

- \*Always read any material in the introduction of the book and any material at the end of the book. You may find an explanation of issues you wish to discuss in your essay in the introductory material.
- \* Find a short biography of the author (perhaps at the back or front of the book) and read it. his may help you to understand the novel more fully.
- \*While reading the novel, be sure to take notes! Write in your book, if possible.
- \*Note any words that are unfamiliar. Look them up in the dictionary.
- \*Pay close attention to themes you find in the book (what “messages” do you think the author has in writing this work?)
- \*Pay attention to the way each character is described in the novel, how he or she looks, acts, thinks, reacts, interacts with other characters.
- \*Pay close attention to any symbolism you might see in the novel
- \*Pay attention to how characters differ and how they might be similar
- \*Pay attention to how the situations or characters in the novel might relate to your own experiences.

### **Essay-**

Write a title page for your essay, including the title of your essay, (which should not be the same as the novel on which you are writing) your name, the date, the school, your grade level.

Your essay must have a thesis (main point). Everything in your essay must be related to your main point. Your thesis must be your own opinion or idea about the novel. Your thesis must be stated clearly in your first paragraph.

Your essay must be at least 5 full paragraphs long. Remember, a paragraph consists of at least 5 to 8 full sentences that make the same point.

(Note: remember that we write about fiction in the present tense. For example, “Romeo and Juliet are impulsive characters,” not “Romeo and Juliet were impulsive characters.”)

Model of a basic essay:

- \*First paragraph (your introduction) ---in your first paragraph, you should try to grab your readers’ attention. You must also state your main point (your thesis).
- \*Second, Third, Fourth, etc. paragraphs---in each of the paragraphs between the introduction and conclusion you should be explaining one of the points that help explain the main point of your essay (your thesis). You should use specific examples from the novel to make your point.
- \*Last paragraph---(your conclusion) in your last paragraph you should be restating your main point in a new way and leaving your readers with something to remember.

**Your essay is due on the first full day of school.**

**Late essays will not be accepted.**

Here are some possible topics for your essay: (only choose one of the following on which to write your essay )

1. Compare (focus on the similarities) two characters from the novel.
2. Contrast (focus on the differences) two characters from the novel.
3. Explain what you think is the most interesting theme of the novel (in other words, what “message” do you get from the novel?)
4. Explain how the setting (time and place) of the novel affects the characters and their actions.
5. Explain the conflict in the novel. Look at the sources of the conflict, how the characters are affected by the conflict and how it is resolved.

**You will be graded on:**

Proper title page 5 pts

Appropriate introduction 5 pts

Clear thesis which states the purpose of the essay 20 pts

Body of essay is developed sufficiently and supports the thesis 30 pts

Use of examples from the novel to back up each major point 20 pts

Conclusion restates thesis and leaves readers with something to think about 5 pts

Mechanics (spelling errors, punctuation errors, run on sentences, fragments 15 pts

Any suspicion of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero