

## English 3 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 Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Some books from which to choose:

Walden Thoreau  
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe  
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain  
The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison  
A Lesson before Dying by Gaines  
Beloved by Toni Morrison  
Malcolm X by Alex Haley  
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee  
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne  
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers  
Night by Elie Wiesel  
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison  
Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell  
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck  
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger  
A Night to Remember by Walter Lord  
Dune by Frank Herbert  
The Call of the Wild by Jack London  
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway  
The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury  
A Separate Peace by John Knowles  
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott  
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith  
The Red Pony by John Steinbeck  
The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart

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 you are writing on) 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.

You must back up your points with short quotes from the novel. You will use the quotes to help make your point. You must comment on these quotes and explain fully how they make your point. You should have between 3 to 6 quotes from the novel in your essay. Remember to put page numbers in parentheses after each quote.

(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 be using quotes in these paragraphs to help make your point clear. Be sure to explain how your quote relates to your main point (thesis)

\*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 quotes 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