

## English 4 Summer Reading List

You are to read four 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 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 :

Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy and  
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

If you like fantasy and science fiction novels, you might enjoy:

Watership Down by Richard Adams  
Deyrni Rising by Katherine Kurtz  
Camber of Guldi by Katherine Kurtz  
Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift  
The Once and Future King by T. H. White  
The Fellowship of the Ring by J. R. R. Tolkien  
The Mists of Avalon by Marion Zimmer Bradley  
Taliesin by Steven Lawhead  
The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey  
2001: A Space Odyssey by Arthur C. Clarke  
The Hollow Hills by Mary Stewart  
The Invisible Man by H. G. Wells

If you like mysteries, you might enjoy:

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
Turn of the Screw by Henry James  
Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie  
The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie

If you are interested in art, you might enjoy:

Lust for Life by Irving Stone  
The Agony and the Ecstasy by Irving Stone

If you are interested in romance, you might enjoy:

Emma by Jane Austen  
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen  
The Shell Seekers by Rosamunde Pilcher

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte  
Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott

If you are interested in historical fiction, you might enjoy :

London by Edward Rutherford  
Serum by Edward Rutherford

Other novels and plays from which to choose:

Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy  
Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy  
Orlando by Virginia Woolf  
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf  
To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf  
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde  
Kim by Rudyard Kipling  
Any play by William Shakespeare except Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Othello, Romeo and Juliet, or Hamlet

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. This 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 2 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