

English 1 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 Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Other novels and plays from which to choose:

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by Ernest Gaines

White Fang by Jack London

Holes by Louis Sachar

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'engle

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Hoot by Carl Hiassen

Watership Down by Richard Adams

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Dragonsong by Anne McCaffrey

The Sword of Shannara by Terry Brooks

The Sword in the Stone by T.H. White

October Sky by Homer Hickman

Eye of the World by Robert Jordan

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

The Prince across the River by Jane Yolen

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin

The School of Beauty and Charm by Melanie Summer

Death Be Not Proud by John Gunther

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

Alicia, My Story by Appleman-Jurman

The Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

Just Ask: Diary of a Teenage Girl by Melody Carlson

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Speak by Louise Halse Andersen

The Princess Bride by William Goldman

The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

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 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