

May 22, 2018

Dear Parents,

At Cornerstone Christian School, we believe in preparing all of our students for college. With this principle in mind, we ask all of our students to engage in a summer reading assignment. We want our students to be reading and keeping their minds academically active during the summer. More than that, though, developing fluency and reading skills is essential to everything students will do in the future.

To encourage continued learning during the summer months and to prepare students to begin the fall English program, Cornerstone has a required summer reading program for all students entering grades 9-12. While the summer months offer a much needed respite for our students and quality time with family, we believe that summer reading is necessary to keep students engaged with the learning process. Many of the literary works are challenging, and reading usually invites conversation, so you may enjoy reading the literature with your student to share in his/her learning experience. There are specific literary selections and reading assignments for each course. These will be used in class in the fall. While other reading is wonderful, please do accomplish those listed for your student's incoming grade. Assignments should be completed by Monday, August 20, 2018. These assignments will be graded and be a part of the first semester grade.

If you have any questions or concerns about these summer assignments please contact me at the following: adennis@ccsnebraska.org.

Enjoy all your summer reading!

Sincerely,

Alyssa Dennis

High School English

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Freshmen

Please read 1 book from each author below. To get you started on writing book reviews, I have attached a template for you to use to write a review of your book. Book reviews are to be word processed and printed at home. (You will complete 2 reviews.)

Book Choice #1 (pick one of the following)

Call of the Wild by Jack London

White Fang by Jack London

Book Choice #2 (pick one of the following)

Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne

Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

For incoming Freshmen only

Book Review Instructions

Follow these instructions to write your book review. Reviews should be double spaced 12-point legible font, and fully justified with one-inch margins.

Your Name

Class

Date Completed

Original Title (not title of the book)

The book that I read is _____. The author is _____. The book was published in (year) _____. This is a story about _____. The type of story is _____.

Paragraph 2 describes the setting. This should be no more than 5 sentences. Include a good topic sentences and then tell if it is city, country, small town, etc. Explain anything special about the setting that helps understand the story.

Paragraph 3 should introduce the main character. Tell the name, age or school grade, special thinks about their appearance, their relationships, etc.

Paragraph 4 should tell about the main character's personality. What kind of person is this? –well organized, scatterbrained, careful, determined, etc. When you give a characteristic make sure to tell something in the book that shows (proves) you are right. What does the person like to do? Do they have some special goal in life?

Paragraph 5 is about plot. Start with the main problem of the book. Tell about 3 other conflicts that occur along the way to solving the main problem. This paragraph is no more than 10 sentences long.

Paragraph 6 tells the climax of the story and the denouement (resolution). You must tell the end of the book. How does the book end with an all finished feeling?

Paragraph 7 tells if you did or did not like the book and why. In this paragraph you should state what type of reader may like this book.

REMEMBER THIS IS THE FIRST WRITING I WILL SEE OF YOURS. DO YOUR BEST AND EDIT CAREFULLY.

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

Sophomores

Book #1

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Book #2

O! Pioneers by Willa Cather

Juniors American Lit

Book #1 (pick one of the following)

Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Book #2 (pick one of the following)

A Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter

Last of the Mohicans by James Fennimore Cooper

Juniors English 11 (pick one of the following)

The Outsiders by S.E.Hinton

That Was Then, This is Now by S.E Hinton

Seniors British Literature

Book #1

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Book #2

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

After you have read your book, please answer one of the essay questions for your chosen book. (They are book specific so please read carefully.) Essays should be at least 5 paragraphs, include examples from the text and be in correct format. Format includes 12 pt, double spaced body, 1-inch margins, heading on the left side (which includes: name, date and assignment), original title centered, and no extra spaces between paragraphs. Please note the attached rubric, for specific evaluation criteria.

Essay Topics

English 10

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Discuss the themes of racism, poverty, and domestic violence in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Which characters in the story represent these themes symbolically? How do poverty and violence influence the actions of these characters?

Analyze and discuss the character of Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. What kinds of behavior and values does Atticus instill in his children? Would you say Atticus's relationships with Jem and Scout are close?

Describe and discuss the character of Mrs. Dubose in the novel. What lessons does Jem learn from his encounters with Mrs. Dubose? How does Mrs. Dubose's death affect Jem and Scout?

Analyze and discuss the character of Scout Finch as you envision her from the narrative. How old is Scout when her character is first introduced? What behavior does Scout exhibit? How does Scout change during the story?

Describe and discuss the setting of the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama. How many people live in Maycomb? How is the town's economic situation described? Where do Scout and Jem live in relation to the town?

O! Pioneers by Willa Cather

Sacrifice was a theme that was very prevalent in this book. Who were the characters most affected by this theme, and how did they allow sacrifice to change their lives?

What were some of the forms of foreshadowing used in this book, and how did those moments affect the course of the plot?

Alexandra endures many different trials before the end of the book. What are some of these trials and what lessons does she learn through these experiences?

Personal identity was one of the main themes in this book. Where did this theme appear, and how did its inclusion in the novel shape the course of the plot?

Friendship is a strong theme throughout the book. Where are some places that this theme appears, and how do the characters touched by it react? How do certain friendships change over the course of the book, and what causes these changes?

Many different characters in this book were persuaded to do things that they would not have done of their own accord? What are some of these instances, and how did persuasion affect the course of the plot?

American Literature

Joy Luck Club

Determine why An-Mei Hsu named her youngest child Bing, and explore the irony that Tan creates with Bing's death. How is Bing's role related to An-mei's religious beliefs, and what does his death represent?

The four Chinese women who become friends in America meet in a Chinese Baptist church, which they were attending for practical reasons. What possible connections could Christianity have to their earlier religious beliefs in China? Did they all eventually accept Christianity over their old religion?

In *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan weaves together a series of events from the past and present, as well as a series of characters whose lives have intersected. To help you understand the story more fully, write an essay divided into four parts, describing each mother, and each daughter, their past circumstances, their current situations, and their relationships.

Farewell to Manzanar

Trace Jeanne's feelings about her Japanese heritage through the events of the book. Which events have an impact on her self-image? How do the events make her feel about her Japanese heritage?

What is life like in Manzanar? Describe the physical and emotions of the camp. What effects does the camp have on internees? Use specific examples from the book.

How do Jeanne and her family feel about Manzanar? Why do you think they feel this way? How are their feelings contradictory? How do you think you would feel in the same situation?

How do the individuals at Manzanar try to improve the camp? What things do they do to make life more normal? Why do you think they do these things? Are the efforts successful or not? Why?

What discrimination does Jeanne face in school after the family returns to Los Angeles? Where does she feel accepted? Where does she not feel accepted? What recurring dream does she have? Why do you think Jeanne never fulfills this dream?

Jeanne is a child while the family lives in Manzanar. How do you think the camp experience is different for different age groups? Use examples from the book to back up your answers. Who had the toughest time at the camp? Why?

Esperanza Rising

During the novel, Esperanza sheds her coddled sense of entitlement and emerges as a responsible young woman. Who or what are the primary motivators responsible for this social and emotional growth?

Harvest is a time of celebration and reward. The farmer is rewarded for his hard work by the fruits of his labor. How might Papa's death so soon after harvest be a symbolic of something?

In Chapter 2 of *Esperanza Rising*, Esperanza is at a low point and her grandmother reminds her of a story she has told Esperanza many times, the myth of the phoenix rising out of its own ashes. What is inspirational about this myth and why is it appropriate that Abuelita, rather than any other character, be the one to refer to this myth at this time?

All the chapter titles of this novel are names of fruit. After reading the novel, explain why Pam Munoz Ryan, the author might have chosen to title the chapters in this way.

In the first chapter of *Esperanza Rising*, Papa instills a love of the land in Esperanza. There are several ways in which the characters can be categorized. One way is that are those who "love the land" and those who do not.

Examine the love and respect for the land through the characters that are aligned with Papa with respect to the land, and how this love "gives back" to them.

The Light in the Forest

True Son's Indian family and white family have different values and moral standards. Do you think that living with the Butlers changed True Son's values, morals, or beliefs from those at the beginning of the story? What evidence do you see that leads you to your conclusion?

What is the significance of the tree that True Son sees while he is with the military? Do you think that True Son would have the same feelings about the tree at the end of the story?

After the failed ambush, what do the Indians do to True Son's face? What does it symbolize, and what following events does it alert True Son to? What does Cuyloga do to his own face in response, and why?

Why does True Son call out a warning to the boat? Do you think that True Son felt the way he did because of Cuyloga's influence, Gordies, something within himself, or a combination? Explain.

What bothers True Son about the scalp that Thitpan has claimed? Knowing Cuyloga's attitude on the subject, do you think that True Son would feel the same way if he had never gone to live with the Butlers? Why or why not?

The Last of the Mohicans

Write an essay about stereotypes used to describe the American Indian. In your essay cite references in THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS as examples of stereotypes. Discuss how particulars often become generalizations about entire ethnic groups.

Write an essay contrasting Cora and Alice. In your opinion, is there an element of racism in Cora's being the stronger of the two girls and eventually being killed? Is there a weakness in Heyward's expressed preference for Alice? Is Magua's preference for Cora based on racial preference?

Write an essay about the effects of public humiliation. Reference Magua's hatred for Col. Munro who had him publicly flogged. Explain how the hatred was not born from the flogging but from the public way in which it was administered. Relate the theme to how you would feel by being humiliated in front of other people.

Write an essay on the literary glamorization of the American Indian. Use examples of Cooper's descriptions of Indian customs that extol a high ethical standard. Include the representations of Indian bravery as a prerequisite to manhood.

Write an essay about historical fiction. Explain how including actual historical facts in a fiction story makes the tale more realistic. Discuss how Cooper's use of real tribal names enhances his story of THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS. What is the importance of the French and Indian War to the story?

English 11

The Outsiders

Describe the different characters' beliefs about violence. What events shape or change their view of violence? Do they think it's a necessary evil?

Explain how *The Outsiders* can be considered a "coming of age" story. How do the main characters mature?

What message is implied at the end of the novel? Is the story intended to inspire hope? Why or why not?

Describe how the characters in the novel are united by a sense of belonging or wanting to belong. How is Johnny's story specifically reflective of this?

Discuss the significance of the title of the novel. Who is an "outsider" throughout the story, and what makes that person an "outsider"? What other interpretations of the title are there?

Explain the similarities between the greasers and the Socs. How are they not really all that different from each other? Why does each group think the other is better off? What specific events or conversations in the novel indicate that the two groups have some things in common?

That was Then, This is Now

Write an essay explaining your position on Bryon's actions. Was turning Mark in the right thing to do? What would you have done in the same situation? When does legal duty come before friendship and loyalty?

Write an essay discussing revenge. Be sure to touch upon:

- 1 - The motivations behind getting revenge.
- 2 - Some famous stories of revenge.
- 3 - Whether revenge helps to reconcile a situation.

Write an essay describing Bryon's character. Be sure to address:

- 1 - What makes Bryon different from the heroes of other teen novels.
- 2 - His motivations.
- 3 - Where he gets his code of ethics from.

British Literature

The Great Gatsby

Summarize how F. Scott Fitzgerald uses local color and imagery to describe Gatsby's mansion. Cite descriptive examples of rooms, décor, landscaping, and his view of the harbor. Does the imagery Fitzgerald uses depict a clear and accurate picture of the mansion and the surrounding landscape?

Analyze Gatsby's coming of age throughout the novel. What fears and emotions does he experience as he grows from a boy in North Dakota, a teenager, a soldier and a successful adult? How do his attitudes change as he develops from a young boy into a young man? Cite examples of the character changes Gatsby experiences from each stage of his life.

What is the message Fitzgerald is trying to convey about the materialism of the wealthy and privileged in the novel? Does he depict a realistic and relevant view of human nature through the wealthy characters in the novel? Are the human qualities of each character true to life? Explain. How do the characters convey their everyday struggles of a life filled with money?

One of the main themes in the novel is the pursuit of the American Dream. Explain the similarities and differences in how Daisy, Nick, Tom and Gatsby try to achieve their individual version of the American Dream. Which of the characters was the most successful in achieving the American Dream? Explain your view.

Nick and Gatsby remain true friends from the time they first meet until Gatsby's death. Using examples from the novel, explain how the male bond between Nick and Gatsby grows and strengthens throughout the novel. How does this bond continue, even after Gatsby's death? Compare the qualities of each man and how these qualities strengthen Nick and Gatsby's bond.

Evaluate the elements of cause and effect in this story using examples from the novel. Choose three events from the story that cause change in Gatsby's life. How does Gatsby react to the events and their effects? How does he change emotionally in his own life and in his attitude toward Daisy?

Fahrenheit 451

Discuss Clarisse's role in the novel. How does she act as a catalyst for Montag's change? Do you think he could have / would have changed without her influence? Is it significant that catalyst to Montag's change is a young, beautiful woman? Why or why not? Be sure to include examples from the text to help strengthen your arguments.

How does Mildred symbolize the state of unhappiness in Montag's society? What does Mildred value, and how do her obsessions affect her personal life, particularly in her marriage? What message is Bradbury sending the reader about the comparison between television and books? Be sure to include examples from the text to help strengthen your arguments.

Describe the role firemen play in Montag's society. Why were firemen first needed, and how has their role changed over time? Then, discuss Montag's personal transformation within the role. What does he like about his job? When did that change? Be sure to include examples from the text to help strengthen your arguments.

What does Captain Beatty represent regarding government and censorship? Do you think Beatty believes in the value of his societal position, or is he simply an insecure man with power to exploit? Why might Beatty want society to be completely homogenous, and what does his treatment of Montag tell you about his character? Be sure to include examples from the text to help strengthen your arguments.

Discuss Montag's relationship with Professor Faber. Where did the two men first meet, and what is significant about their meeting? Why did Montag think that Faber would make a good mentor in his quest for knowledge? Based on your reading, do you agree with Montag's assessment? Why or why not? Be sure to include examples from the text to help strengthen your arguments.

What does Montag hope to discover by reading through the illegal books? How does his quest for knowledge affect his relationship with government, Mildred, Clarisse, and himself? Be sure to include examples from the text to help strengthen your arguments.

What is the significance of Montag's possession of the Bible? Why is this book important both in Montag's personal quest, but in the novel's overarching message about literature? Does this novel have a religious message for the reader? Why or why not? What is the significance of the Biblical passage at the end of the novel? Be sure to include examples from the text to help strengthen your arguments.

	Outstanding	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Content-Intro/Conclusion	-Introduction grabs attention and provides meaningful context to a persuasive argument -Conclusion effectively restates the argument, but fresh language and meaningful insight leaves reader wanting more	-Introduction sparks some interest and effectively introduces reasonable argument -Conclusion restates arguments, but using new language and shows understanding on the big picture	-Introduction provides context for the argument -Conclusion restates arguments, but recycles previous statements verbatim	-Introduction or conclusion does not flow with the argument of the paper -Introduction or conclusion contains blanket or vague statements; needs development to be effective	-No introduction or conclusion
Ideas-Thesis	-Argument is clearly articulated and persuasive, contains an original opinion	-Thesis presents a reasonable opinion, argument is clear and focused	-Thesis is a plausible argument; contains a legitimate opinion, but somewhat broad	-Thesis demonstrates a misunderstanding of the prompt or text	-Thesis is not evident; Thesis is a fact or plot summary; thesis not in correct place
Organization-Topic Sentences & Transitions	-Topic sentences contribute to the highly persuasive nature of the argument	-Topic sentences articulate precise argument; logically linked to thesis	-Topic sentences are present and make an argument connected to the thesis, but are basic	-Topic sentences are not linked to thesis -Topic sentences show a misunderstanding of the prompt or text	- Topic sentences are not evident -Topic sentences are facts or summaries
Content-Evidence	-Evidence is best example to support argument and highly persuasive	-Evidence is believable and convincing and supports your argument	-Evidence is present, but superficial	-Evidence chosen does not support thesis/topic sentences -Textual evidence is irrelevant	-Little or no evidence
Content-Commentary	-Creative/original ideas and insights; extensive commentary, refreshing; goes beyond obvious and basic commentary	-Analysis is believable and convincing, a few assertions many lack specific examples, but are still clearly linked to the argument	-Analysis supports argument, basic ideas	-Ideas lack development; misunderstanding of the prompt or text; illogical argument	-Analysis not present, simply plot summary -Analysis does not address the prompt
Voice & Word Choice	-Sophisticated vocabulary; sentence variety; quotations are smoothly blended	-Effectively blends direct quotation with explanatory words and phrases to introduce the quotation, and facilitate narrative flow; still attempting advanced vocabulary	-Blends quoted material smoothly; but sentence structure lacks variety; attempts to incorporate more advanced vocabulary	- Problems with sentence clarity, redundancy; some quotes stand alone; some vague sentences; little use of higher vocabulary or sentence variety	- Serious problems with coherence and sentence clarity; most sentences need revision; quotes stand alone and lack connection to the thesis
Conventions	-No Errors	-Effective Punctuation, 1-2 errors	-Minor problems with coherence, grammar, spelling or punctuation, 3-5 errors	-Several distracting problems with coherence, grammar, spelling or punctuation	-Major problems with coherence, grammar, spelling or punctuation