

English II Honors World Literature Summer Reading 2011

Two of the goals of English II Honors World Literature are to broaden your literary and cultural horizons and to teach you how to articulate--in writing--strong personal responses and analyses of literature. Therefore, in addition to reading your choice from the school-wide list, you will also read two other novels for this class:

The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini
Nectar in a Sieve, by Kamala Markandaya

While you are reading these novels, you are required to keep a reader's journal for each. Take notes as you read. In addition to any notes you take for your own purposes (which might be helpful in remembering the novel for assignments in the fall), please specifically address the following:

1. Record your impressions of the setting of the novel. Where does the novel take place? What do you know about this culture, country, or part of the world? What makes it different from the place you live? How is the setting important to the story?

Use specific details from the novel to support your answer. To fully answer this question you must be attentive to descriptive passages as you read. Think about the mood the authors create with these descriptions of place. Jot down a passage (with page numbers) for each novel to support your own description of the setting.

2. For each of the main characters, write a description and share your impressions of the characters. Did you like the main character? Why or why not? Did you change your opinion of the main character from the start to the end? Do you find them believable?

In your discussion, include at least three specific examples in which the character said or did something that led to your opinion. Include appropriate page numbers in your discussion.

3. Identify an important passage (ex. a few sentences, a few lines of dialogue) from each novel. Choose passages that you think are important: they might reveal an important aspect of a character's personality, a critical event in the plot, an insight into the theme of the novel, or a beautifully phrased description. Write the full quote, enclose it in quotation marks, write the page number on which you found the passage and then discuss why you chose the passage and its particular importance to the novel. *Use a passage different than your setting passage!*

4. Upon your conclusion of each novel, write your final impressions of the story. Did you like the novel? Did you think it was well-written and worthy of study? Why or why not? *Be open and honest about your opinion, but be able to defend yourself; you MUST therefore discuss specific examples in support of your conclusions. Responses like, "I just didn't like it" or "I thought it was OK," are not adequate responses.*

Bring your journals with you ***on the first day of school***. They may be NEATLY typed or handwritten on loose paper (not a notebook or journal book) and should be stapled together. Include the title and author of the novel at the top left of each section of notes. Put your name on the top right of each page of notes.

These notes will serve two purposes. They will demonstrate to me that you have carefully read the books and they will provide you with some review material for future assessments and discussions.

You do NOT have to keep a formal journal for the school choice summer reading selection; however, any notes you take on that book may be likewise helpful on the school-wide summer reading assignment.

If you do not read the two novels assigned novels or complete the journals, you should not expect to remain in the English II Honors World Lit. Class. The summer reading is a prerequisite for the class.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Feel free to email me during the summer with any questions or comments you might have at jgillesp@griswold.k12.ct.us or to share journals over Google docs to the address above.

I will check my email several times a week – except perhaps during one week in August when I will be away on vacation. Have a great summer!