

9th Pre-AP English Information and Summer Reading Assignment 2018 – 2019 SY

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Summer Reading Remind: Text @kee7a to 81010

Course Objectives: The goal and purpose of this class is to prepare students for continued success in AP English classes and college. Students will engage in advanced level reading of complex texts and learn to analyze them for deeper understanding of content, purpose and use of language. They will also write repetitively to produce more mature and purposeful prose, particularly tailored to the expectations of the AP English exams they will take in the upcoming years.

*Students may be expected to purchase or obtain a novel independently during the school year.

Summer Reading Assignment: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

- First and foremost, if you have any questions as you work on this, please e-mail, call or text. We will help you however we can. If you don't ask, we can only assume you know and understand. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE THE CLASS STARTS!**
- You must obtain a tangible copy of the book; an electronic copy will not work for this assignment. Be careful to **NOT** get an abridged version! This is a shortened edition of the novel, leaving out a significant amount of the text. (If a novel is an abridged version, it will state that on the cover.)
- Write your first and last name on the inside front cover of your book. (If you borrowed the book, write your name on two sticky notes and place one on the inside front cover and the other on the inside of the back cover in the event that one gets lost.)
- Feel free to refer to Cliff Notes, Spark Notes, Shmoop, etc. to assist your understanding of the novel. These can serve as useful secondary study resources, especially if you have difficulty comprehending the text. Given the nature of the assignment, it will be almost impossible for you to avoid actually reading the novel. ☺☺☺
- Your summer reading assignment has two parts.

I. Annotation: You will need five highlighters OR five different colored post-it notes (if you don't own your book) to complete the annotations: **purple, orange, blue, yellow, green.**

- PURPLE – Characters:** Highlight/write *important* information about the characters in purple. You are looking for details that reveal the personality and purpose of a character. In the initial description of characters, their physical appearances and any background about their lives are important. As the characters develop, the important details become a little more subtle. You should find that your purple annotations are heavier in the beginning and thin out some as the novel continues. In addition to highlighting, write any notes or questions about characters in the margins or on sticky notes.
- ORANGE – Setting:** Highlight/write important information about setting in orange. Pay careful attention to look for setting as a symbol or to help convey mood. Make notes about this in the margins or on sticky notes.
- BLUE – Plot Events:** Highlight/write important plot information. This refers to short passages (no more than a few sentences) that contain information you would include if summarizing a chapter. Please be careful not to highlight too much. That can be just as damaging as not highlighting enough. We are looking to see that you understand how to pick out main events.

- GREEN – Figurative Language:** Highlight/write the use of figurative language in the novel. This includes, but is not limited to, metaphors, similes, personification, allusions, sound devices, etc.
- YELLOW – Theme:** Highlight/write phrases and/or sentences that convey a central idea/theme for the chapter and/or novel as a whole. If a theme is inferred, comment on what universal statement about the world or human life is being made by writing in the margins or on sticky notes. These notations will not be as prevalent as those above.

* You will turn in your annotated novel on your first day in my class. It will be returned to you after I have reviewed and assessed your work.

* For an example of what your book might look like upon completion of the annotation, refer to <https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2013/04/30/iannotate-whatever-happened-to-the-web-as-an-annotation-system/>.

II. News Article Connection: It is important that students are able to make connections between modern day world issues and classic literature, as this is an aspect of the Pre-AP/AP English curriculum. Therefore, you will complete the following:

- A. Collect one news article that is no more than one year old from a reputable newspaper, magazine or journal that can be connected to a theme in *Heart of Darkness*. If you obtain one online, print out a hard copy. You must turn in a copy of the article.
- B. Type (Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced) a two-part response:
 - i. An objective (unbiased) summary of the article in your own words. This should be somewhere between 150-250 words, in paragraph form.
 - ii. Explain the article’s thematic connection to *Heart of Darkness*. In other words, explain how both the article and the novel discuss the same idea about the world or an aspect of human life. This does not mean, however, that the two have to share the same statement about that idea. Make sure to explain the differences, as well as the similarities. This response should be 250-350 words and include a minimum of two textual examples (with in-text citations) from both readings; that means two examples from the article and two from *Heart of Darkness*.

* If you wish for one of us to approve your article before beginning your response, we are happy to do that.

* When typing, separate the parts by labeling the first one “Summary” and the second one “Thematic Connection.”

When writing your formal responses, remember the following:

- Do NOT use any first or second person personal pronouns in any of your responses. First or second person point of view is not appropriate for these writing assignments.
- Do NOT use “basic” vocabulary, words like good, bad, etc. Be specific. Remember, this is a Pre-AP class.
- Do NOT start any of your responses by stating what they will do. For example, do not write, “This response will...”
- Watch your spelling, grammar and punctuation! It will affect your grade.

- Due Date:** All three parts of your summer reading assignment are due on your first day in class. Because this will be graded as a project (category is 25% of average) and be such a significant part of your first nine weeks average, we will accept late assignments; however, there is a 10% grade deduction for each day after the due date. If any part of the assignment is turned in late, the entire assignment is considered late because all of the parts are assessed collectively for one grade.
- A **TEST** (category is 60% of average) will also be given within the first few days of class!
- If you happen to misplace this copy of the assignment, we will have an electronic copy available on my teacher page located through the school’s website.

Have a great summer!! We’ll see you in August! Excited for a new year!

~ Mrs. DeLoach & Mrs. Mitchell