

## Independent Reading Assignment

Choose either *Pride and Prejudice* or *Brave New World*.

Complete the following assignments. Be sure to note which assignments you should complete based on whether or not you are taking the AP Exam.

1. **Stylistic Prose Techniques** (ALL students should complete.) –**Due Friday 5/9**
  - As you read, notice the stylistic techniques that the author uses to communicate more effectively and powerfully. Examples of stylistic techniques are point of view, tone, diction, syntax, narrative pace, humor, **satire**, figurative language, imagery, irony, selection of detail, and many more.
  - Prepare a list of at least ten (10) examples of powerful prose techniques.
    - Define the term in your own words, cite the example from the text, and provide a brief analysis of how the author uses the technique effectively.
    - This assignment must be typed and **not** longer than two pages.
2. **Reader Response** (Complete if you are **NOT** taking the exam!) –**Due Wednesday 5/7**
  - Divide your book into fourths. After you finish reading each fourth, write a reader response/reaction to that section. These responses should be **handwritten** and limited to the space provided on the Reading Response Sheet. Please do **not** write a plot summary. Naturally, you will include some plot, but I want to read your reactions to what is happening in the novel and to the characters and their personalities and motivations.
3. **AP Exam Preparation** (Complete if you **ARE** taking the exam!) –**Due Wednesday 5/7**
  - Using the four essay prompts below, select one of the texts we have read this year (*Crime and Punishment*, *Frankenstein*, *Fences*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Hamlet*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Pride and Prejudice*, or *Brave New World*) to do the following for each prompt:
  - Compose an introductory paragraph and an outline for a potential essay. Be sure the introductory paragraph includes the author's name. Include topic sentences for at least 2 body paragraphs in your outline. Ensure that the examples for each paragraph reference specific characters and scenes in the text. Refer back to your MWDS to help you complete this assignment. Let me know if you need for me to re-share your MWDS with you on Google Docs.
  - You should make sure that you have used **at least 3 different texts** for the four essay prompts.
    - A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman. Then write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.
    - “And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.” Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*. Choose a novel or play in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings

shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.

- In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life “is a search for justice.” Choose a character from a novel or play who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole. (DO NOT USE *Hamlet*.)
- Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience. Select a novel, play, or epic in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. (Do NOT USE *Heart of Darkness*.)

4. **Final Exam** (ALL students will complete) –**Tentative Wednesday May 14**

- During the time allotted for senior final exams, you will complete a Key Line/ID/Short Answer Test on your chosen book. This test will count as your final exam (15% of your final grade.)