

British Literature & Composition
2018 Summer Reading Assignment
Hampton High School
Pamela White, Ed.S.
pamela.white@henry.k12.ga.us

Welcome to British Literature & Composition! As a student in this course, you will engage in the careful reading of major literary works from British Literature, while studying the history of the English Language. You will develop critical standards for evaluating and appreciating any literary work, while also increasing your sensitivity to literature as a shared human experience. The course will focus on improving critical analysis and will include a study of vocabulary, grammar, mechanics, and usage to improve writing ability in preparation for college next year. In order to achieve these goals and to begin the 2018 school year on a positive note, complete the following assignments. **Please note that summer reading assignments are due the first week of school and are directly related to the course content.**

Assignment I: SENIOR ESSAY ASSIGNMENT – THE CHARACTER SKETCH
Descriptive Writing

When you write a character sketch, you are trying to introduce the reader to someone. You want the reader to have a strong mental image of the person, to know how the person talks, to know the person's characteristic ways of doing things, to know something about the person's value system. Character sketches only give snap shots of people; therefore, you should not try to write a history of the person.

A good way to write a character sketch is to tell a little story about one encounter you had with him or her. If you do that, you could describe a place briefly, hopefully a place that belongs to the person you are describing, focusing on things in the scene that are somehow representative of the person you are describing. Describe how the person is dressed. Then simply tell what happened as you spent time together. From time to time, describe the person's gestures or facial expressions. It is important to put words into the person's mouth in direct quotations.

As you work on this paper, you should decide what kind of emotional reaction you want the reader to have in relationship to this person. What kind of details can you select to create that emotional reaction? Avoid making broad characterizing statements; instead, let the details you give suggest general characteristics. Let the reader draw her own conclusions

Example Sketch

Eudora Welty's Sketch of Miss Duling

Miss Duling dressed as plainly as a Pilgrim on a Thanksgiving poster we made in the schoolroom, in a longish black-and-white checked gingham dress, a bright thick wool sweater the red of a railroad lantern--she'd knitted it herself--black stockings and her narrow elegant feet in black hightop shoes with heels you could hear coming, rhythmical as a parade drum down the hall. Her silky black curly hair was drawn back out of curl, fastened by high combs, and knotted behind. She carried her spectacles on a gold chain hung around her neck. Her gaze was in general sweeping, then suddenly at the point of concentration upon you. With a swing of her bell that took her whole right arm and shoulder, she rang it, militant and impartial, from the head of the front steps of Davis School when it was time for us all to line up, girls on one side, boys on the other. We were to march past her into the school building, while the fourth-grader she nabbed played time on the piano, mostly to a tune we could have skipped to, but we didn't skip into Davis School.

Your Assignment

Write a character sketch of someone you know. Avoid telling everything about the person, instead, select two or three outstanding traits to illustrate with incidents and examples. Use description to convey the impression. You may find it helpful to follow the pattern of the model by beginning with an incident showing the person performing a typical action. As you relate the incident, or soon afterward, give vital information about the subject - name, age, and occupation, for instance. Is it important that the reader see the person? If so, give details of physical appearance. After finishing the sketch, reread it to be sure that it creates a vivid impression, making any revisions that you feel will make it more effective

Paper Requirements:

- Typed Size 12 Font, Standard Margins (1 inch all sides)
- **1-2** pages
- **10 points** will be taken off the total grade for **each** of the following errors: Run-ons, comma splices, unjustifiable fragments, inappropriate usage (their/there, too/to, our/are, it's/its), lack of subject/verb agreement, lack of pronoun/antecedent agreement, misspelled words.

Pre-writing Questions

1. Name a person who has made a difference in your life and explain what the difference has been.
2. If the person is a family member, where do you see him/her most often? If the person is not a family member, where did you meet him/her?
3. What do other people think of this person? What might other people say about him/her?
4. Picture this person. Describe him/her in as much detail as you can. Include facial features, physical appearance, clothing, manner of speech.
5. How does his/her appearance reflect his/her personality?
6. When you picture this person, what do you think of him/her doing? Include descriptions of facial expressions, gestures, etc.
7. When you hear this person, what do you hear them saying?
8. What are unusual habits, traits, interests, etc. of this person?
9. Describe something special or memorable that happened between you. This should be an incident that shows how this person has made a difference in your life.

Assignment II: Contemporary Novel: Choose a novel from the list provided and then complete the assignment listed below:

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Silas Marner by George Eliot

The Scapegoat by Daphne du Maurier

Utopia by Thomas More

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Dialectical Journal Assignment

Dialectical(die-uh-LEKT-i-cul), n. : the art or practice of arriving at the truth through logical arguments

Journal (JUHR-nul), n. : a personal record of events, experiences, and reflections kept on a regular basis; a diary.

What is a Dialectical Journal?

A dialectical journal is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. A dialectical journal is a journal that records a dialogue, or conversation between the ideas in the text (the words that you are reading) and the ideas of the reader (the person who is doing the reading). This is what you must do in your journal-keep a dialogue with yourself. In your journal, have a conversation with the text and yourself. Write down your thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas while you read. A dialectical journal can include all sorts of things: class notes, notes on discussions, notes on papers, reactions to readings. The important part is that you, the reader, are reading something and then responding to it with your feelings and ideas!

What type of Notebook Should I Use?

Your journal must either be a composition notebook or a spiral-bound notebook with perforated sheets. Loose-leaf paper and folders is not appropriate. We will continue using these journals in class.

How Do I Keep A Dialectical Journal?

Your journal will use a two-entry form:

Fold the page in half.

- In the LEFT COLUMN, write down parts of paragraphs from our books and articles, quotes, or notes from class that you think are interesting or important.
- In the RIGHT COLUMN, write down YOUR OWN thoughts, commentary, and questions about the information in the LEFT COLUMN.

Paragraphs and quotes from the book	Page #	Your thoughts, comments and questions related to the paragraphs and quotes.
-------------------------------------	--------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

When I am Writing in my Dialectical Journal, is there a Right and Wrong Answer?

NO! A dialectical journal shows your own thoughts and ideas about the things we read in class. When you right in your journal, you should be as original and creative as you can be. The sky's the limit!

Exemplary Sample Dialectical Journal Entries (Quotes and Notes)

Student Name: Bea Smart

Book Title/Author: Hatchet, Gary Paulsen

Date: July 2013 **Total Pages:** 195

Quotes from Text	Page #	Notes from Me
<p>"Thanks. It's really nice." But the words sounded hollow, even to Brian.</p>	<p>pg. 8</p>	<p>Why does Brian feel that way about getting a hatchet from his Mom? If the words sounded hollow to Brian, he must not mean it. Why is he mad at his Mom? Asking questions</p>
<p>"Thanks. It's really nice." But the words sounded hollow, even to Brian. "No roads, no trails, no clearings. Just the lakes, and it came to him that he would have to use a lake for landing. If he went down into the trees he was certain to die."</p>	<p>Pg. 23</p>	<p>I can't imagine keeping my cool in a situation like this. I'd be on my cell phone, panicking, and trying to land the plane! I guess it's important to keep your cool in a crisis. Reaction to text</p>
<p>"Thanks. It's really nice." But the words sounded hollow, even to Brian. "No roads, no trails, no clearings. Just the lakes, and it came to him that he would have to use a lake for landing. If he went down into the trees he was certain to die."</p>	<p>Pg. 48</p>	<p>It's weird how Brian's stomach is like a character now, driving his behavior. I've been hungry before, but never like that. Is he going to start eating things that are poison because he is so hungry? Observation of author craft and connections</p>

- Additional entries would continue on for a minimum of 10 entries.
- Page numbers will indicate selections from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.

An Exemplary Double-Entry Journal Contains the Following:

- Total number of entries are 10 or more for the entire book.
- Each "from text" entry is one or more complete sentence.
- "from text" entries are from the entire book (beginning, middle, and end). This is indicated by page numbers.
- Each "from text" entry contains no spelling errors.
- All "from me" entries have two or more complete sentences and demonstrate fully developed thoughts or connections about the text.

Enjoy your summer reading! The books are truly outstanding, and I believe that you will find them engaging. If you have any questions regarding your essay or any other summer reading assignment, please feel free to email me at: pamela.white@henry.k12.ga.us.