

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING
REQUIREMENT HAS TWO PARTS

Part I – The Classics

Part II - Illuminate

PART I – THE CLASSICS

Choose one book from your grade-level list. Answer the question in a well-written essay due on the first day of class. Note: your Illuminate Summer Reading Book Review is due on the same day.

Rising 9th Grade Assignments

The Good Earth by Pearl Buck

Wang Lung is the central character in *The Good Earth*. His strengths and weaknesses are examined and bared before the reader. Identify three of Wang Lung's strengths and three of Wang Lung's weaknesses. Provide at least two examples from the text to support each one. Use direct quotations to support your ideas.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

In this novel, John Steinbeck explores the value of meaningful connections between human beings. How do these connections (*and* the lack of them) impact characters in this play? Use direct quotations to support your ideas.

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

When the novel begins, Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who prefers to read about an adventure rather than have one. Identify at least three ways that Bilbo changes over the course of the book and provide at least two examples from the text to support each one. Use direct quotations to support your ideas.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

In some way, Tom Sawyer's story is the story of childhood. In other ways, it is a story about growing up. Describe two ways that Tom matures in the course of the novel and provide at least two examples from the text to support each one. Use direct quotations to support your ideas.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

In this novel, Buck the dog must adjust to the realities of life in the frozen Klondike. What does Buck learn about life in the Klondike? How must Buck transform himself in order to survive there? (Think about the title!) Use specific examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

Rising 10th Grade Assignments

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

In Act One of *Our Town*, Thornton Wilder's stage directions specify "no curtain" and "no scenery." Minimal scenery appears in later acts but consists of a couple trellises. Wilder did not attempt to achieve a realistic stage setting, but to what purpose? Identify the unusual staging techniques in Wilder's play and explain how/why they contribute to the meaning of the play.

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

In the final scene of the play end, John Proctor makes what he believes to be the right and moral decision. His wife agrees, telling Hale that her husband has “his goodness now.” Explain the logic behind Proctor’s choice. What would you do in Proctor’s circumstances and why? Use examples and direct quotations to support your answer.

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines a hero as “an illustrious warrior; a man admired for his achievements and noble qualities; one that shows great courage.” Consider this definition and Santiago’s actions. Is Santiago heroic? Why or why not?

The Awakening

This question has two parts. First, explain the motivations for Edna Pontellier’s act at the end of the novel. Identify at least two things/people/ ideas she is trying to escape and explain why. Second, decide if her final action is cowardly or heroic. Support your answers with examples and direct quotations.

The Jungle

The American Dream can be described as the opportunity for success through honest hard work. Upton Sinclair exposes another reality behind the American Dream in this novel about corruption in the meatpacking industry. Identify at least three things that prevent Jurgis and his family from achieving their American Dream. Support your ideas with examples and direct quotations.

My Antonia

Willa Cather’s novel examines the immigrant’s desire for the American Dream. Identify three challenges immigrants face in this novel. In the face of these challenges, are they able to fulfill their dreams? Is Antonia? Why or why not? Support your ideas with examples and direct quotations.

Rising 11th Grade Assignments*Jane Eyre*

Erica Jong, in her "Introduction," in the Signet Classic edition, states:

“The universe of JANE EYRE operates according to female laws. Jane’s success as a heroine depends on her breaking all the rules decreed for nineteenth-century women.” (p. viii).

To what extent is Jane Eyre an appropriate heroine for the feminist movement? In what ways, if any, does she fall short? Give examples from the novel to support your conclusions.

Oliver Twist

Oliver Twist is full of thievery. Some of it is committed by criminals like Sikes against respectable people, while some of it is committed by “respectable” people like Mrs. Mann and Mr. Bumble against the poor. How are these two types of thievery different? What do they have in common? How do other people “rob” Oliver of his identity? What does the prevalence of thievery in the novel say about the world that it portrays?

Use examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

Lord of the Flies

School boys are stranded on a tropical island. Initially, their situation feels like a welcome reprieve from school while they await rescue from adults, but as time goes on, events on the island take a grim turn. Choose a character (Ralph, Piggy, Simon, or Jack) and identify three ways that character changes over the course of the novel. Use at least three examples to describe each change. What do these changes reveal about human nature? Use direct quotations.

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Is Tess a tragic heroine trapped in circumstances beyond her control or is she a passive coward? Use at least five examples and direct quotations to support your answer.

The Quiet American

This question has three parts. First, what reasons does Fowler give for setting Pyle up? Do you accept those reasons? Could there be other reasons? Second, how are Fowler and Pyle alike? How are they different? Three, both Fowler and Pyle have blood on their hands. Is one character more or less heroic than the other? Use examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Jane Austen's novel is full of memorable female characters: Mrs. Bennet, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Lydia Bennet, and heroine Elizabeth Bennet, to name a few. While Austen's attractive female characters are truly admirable, her *unattractive* female characters are incredibly frustrating, well nigh intolerable! In a thoughtful essay, explain the essential differences between the admirable and the annoying female characters in *Pride and Prejudice*. Use direct quotations to support your ideas.

Rising 12th Grade CP Assignments*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

The American Dream can be described as the opportunity for success through honesty and hard work. What has happened to the American Dream in Steinbeck's novel? What happened to the Joads' dream in Oklahoma? What is their new dream? What do the Joads (and the reader) realize about the condition of the American Dream in the twentieth century? Use examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Describe three ways that Lily changes in the course of the novel. Who and/or what is the impetus for these changes? Use specific examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

How does Nora change as the play progresses? How do we know? Why does Nora leave at play's end? Who benefits from this course of action? Use specific examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

The Stranger by Albert Camus

Is Meursault really a threat to his society? Does he deserve the death penalty? Is he more or less dangerous than a criminal who commits a crime with clear motive? Use specific examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

Gregor Samsa wakes up one morning. He is late for work...and he is a bug. Life as an insect is Gregor's reality and his family must deal with this transformation. But no one ever wonders why this metamorphosis occurred. This seems like an obvious question. Why don't Kafka's characters ever ask it? Use specific examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

AP English Literature

AP students must read all of the following and write essays on *The Grapes of Wrath* and *A Doll's House*. Students will be tested on *The Tempest* during the first two weeks of class.

The Tempest by William Shakespeare (Test)

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

The American Dream can be described as the opportunity for success through honesty and hard work. What has happened to the American Dream in Steinbeck's novel? What happened to the Joads' dream in Oklahoma? What is their new dream? What do the Joads (and the reader) realize about the condition of the American Dream in the twentieth century? Use examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

How does Nora change as the play progresses? How do we know? Why does Nora leave at play's end? Who benefits from this course of action? Use specific examples and direct quotations to support your ideas.

Any serious study of English literature requires knowledge of certain background materials which will help make the study not only more enjoyable but also add to one's understanding and appreciation.

Familiarity with the following is necessary and required.

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* (an indispensable reference source)

Selected readings from the **King James Bible**:

Genesis	1:1-3:24 (The Creation and the Fall)
	4:1-15 (The First Murder)
	6:5-9:17 (The Flood)
	11:1-9 (The Origin of Language)
Isaiah	52:13-53:12
Luke	2:1-52 (The Birth and Youth of Jesus)
Matthew	5:1-7:29 (The Sermon on the Mount)
Luke	15:1-32 (The Parables of Jesus)
Matthew	26:14-75 (The Betrayal of Jesus)
	27: 1-66 (The Passion of Christ)
	28:1-20 (The Resurrection)

The Divine Comedy (optional but highly recommended)

Read the summary appearing at the beginning of each Canto.

Inferno (all)

Purgatorio (Cantos I, II, XIX, XXVII, XXX, XXXI)

Paradiso (Cantos I, III, XXI, XXXII, XXXIII)

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR SUMMER CLASSICS ESSAY

1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea(s) discussed in your paper.

Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.

(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.

(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem "Thanatopsis." "The last bitter hour."

This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In “Thanatopsis,” William Cullen Bryant explores the “last bitter hour” (9), that hour of death which comes to all people.

4. When using direct quotations, cite the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie’s life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like “a rut in the road” (72); Janie has no hope for the future.

5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.

6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

7. Your essay must be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one inch margins.

8. Length requirement: two pages MINIMUM.

9. Include name, date, and period in the upper left corner of your paper. Number all pages after the first page.

DUE DATE: THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

PART II – ILLUMINATE

All High School students are required to read one book from the Illuminate list (SEE BELOW) and write a descriptive book review (due on the first day of class, in addition to the Classics assignment).

DESCRIPTIVE (for Illuminate Book Requirement)

- a. Gives essential information without enthusiasm or exaggeration
- b. Uses description and exposition (explanation)
- c. Quotes striking passages from the text
- d. States perceived aims and purposes of author

Writing Book Reviews

Every book makes different demands on the reviewer. No single approach is right for all books. The suggestions that follow are just that – suggestions. Use as many of them as seem pertinent, but remain responsive to the book under consideration.

Minimum Essentials of a Descriptive Book Review

1. Write at least 1.5 typed pages, *double-spaced*, Times New Roman, 12-point font
2. Give sufficient description of the book so that the reader of the review will have some understanding of the author’s thoughts

3. Include something about, not a biography of, the author. Biographical information should be relevant to the subject of the review and enhance the reader's understanding of the book.
4. Write an indirect appraisal through description and exposition based on the aims and purposes of the author.
5. Write whether you would recommend the book, and explain *why* or *why not*.
6. For example:

Novel: *The Book Thief*
Author: Markus Zusak

A story of Liesel Meminger – a young girl living in Nazi Germany, her love affair with books, and her compassion for the Jews

In 1939 Nazi Germany, young Leisel Meminger is placed in the care of the Hubermann's after the recent death of her brother. This loss, along with not knowing where her mother had gone and her father's having been taken away long ago as a communist, leave Liesel with nightmares and sorrow. However, after her first theft of a book, a love affair with reading and books begins. Her foster father teaches her to read, and Liesel begins to steal books from other places, including the Mayor's house and Nazi book-burnings. Circumstances, however, change for Liesel when the Hubermann's hide a Jew in their basement.

Narrated by Death, *The Book Thief* is a unique and enjoyable book. Set in Nazi Germany, the story is rich in descriptive details that revolve around Liesel's life and struggles during this era. Although she deals with the hardships of not having enough food, suffers the fear of death at each air raid, and deals with great personal loss, Liesel's childhood still has moments of a typical growing child: she makes friends, fights at school, goes for bike rides, plays soccer, and cherishes her books. All these experiences add to the depth of her character. In fact, that is what Markus Zusak does best – creates believable and interesting characters. Even Death is likeable, although sometimes his narrative is perhaps a bit too poetic as he speaks of the "sky was the color of Jews."

Snippets of the story and mysterious teasers keep the reader interested to see how the events unfold. Some readers may find these spoil the story for them; nevertheless, most may be curious to find out how the events actually occurred. *The Book Thief* is definitely worth the read.

The Book Thief was first published in 2005 and again in 2008 by Pan MacMillan. Markus Zusak had also written *When Dogs Cry* and *I Am the Messenger*.

ILLUMINATE

List of Books and Participants

For changes or additions, email Mrs. Price- clmonner@gmail.com

***The Blue Sword* by Robin McKinley with Ms. Autenzio**

Ben Firby
 Anna Bentley
 Nicolas Dawson
 Victoria Hope

Born to Run* by Christopher McDougall with Mrs. Gillespie**Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson with Mrs. Zion**

Julia Zimmer	Evans Hollingsworth
Morgan McCarver	Ashley Irwin
Cassy Pankey	

***Eat Mor Chikin and Inspire More People* by S. Truett Cathy with Ms. Tewkesbury**

Wilson Wildeman	Mattie Church
Connor Bruns	Jonathan Kirkland
Robert Albertson	Alex Leiber
Jake Woodard	Alex Bridges
Sloane Gillespie	Robert Caldwell

***Edge of Apocalypse* by Tim LaHaye with Mrs. Atherton and Ms. Melo**

Will Lane	Harrison Turnage
Jacob Simon	Carter Caldwell
Tobias Krussig	Brady Jackson
Adam McKenzie	Jackson Evans
Garrett Ford	Matthew Baghdady

***Found – The Missing: Book 1* by Margaret Peterson Haddix with Mrs. Rollins**

Savanna Galloway	Matthew Freissle
Susan Edwards	Kristen Freissle
Rachel Huddleston	Sarah Bailey
Michael Mathis	

***The Great Wide Sea* by M.H. Herlong with Mrs. Turner**

Madison Grace Faucett	Mary Katherine Kellum
Hannah Marie Wayne	Andrew Reinhardt
Adam Reinhardt	

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett with Mrs. Williams**

Stephanie Long

Morgan Smith

Madison Eiss

Sam Firby

***If I Stay* by Gayle Foreman with Mrs. Howard**

Elizabeth Berube

Kianna Bermudez

Caroline King

Monica Freissle

Nettie Katherine Shull

Grace Hartford

Samantha Paradis

Kayla Lipscomb

Amelia St. James

Kristina Syrigos

Carrie Cogdell

Emily Krull

Natalie Rekers

The Jane Austen Book Club with Mrs. Berube***Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *Mr. Darcy Broke My Heart* and *Jane Austen Ruined My Life* by Beth Pattillo**

Emma Jameson

Rachel Moore

Stephanie Simon

Caroline Bales

Allie Cockman

Mary Burgess Harrelson

Maddie Settlemyre

Sarah Nail

***Jerk California* by Jonathan Friesen with Mrs. Seay**

Murphy Wildeman

Zack Boyles

Will Evans

Alexis Orndorff

Katie Jankowski

Christa Lawler

Melissa Bales

Stephanie Neighbors

Daniel Ceballos

Nancye Edwards

John Scordilis

***Little Bee* by Chris Cleave with Mr. Tinkler**

Jeff Savage

Laura Godenick

Nicole Halla

Amanda Perry

Charlotte Holbein

***The Maze Runner* by James Dasner with Mrs. Coomes**

Slade Glenn

Adam Moore

Brock Jackson

Chelsea Chou

Jennifer Palmer

Rebecca Caldwell

Sydney Galloway

Izzy Martin

Cole Berube

Christopher Busch

Olivia Nail

Kristopher White

Joshua Hoffman

Blasi Miyares

***Pirate Lattitudes* by Michael Crichton with Mrs. Steller**

Andrew Pettit	John Caldwell
Marc Leiber	Adam Rollins
Courtney Pfeiffer	Kat Hunter
Montana Cooley	Kendyle Seay
Alexander Carmalt	

***Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall with Mrs. Womick**

Mari Caroline McCaslin
Andrew Harrelson

***Saints at the River* by Ron Rash with Mrs. Ledbetter**

Rebecca Stanley

***Scat* by Carl Haiisen with Mrs. Stanley**

Sarah Keim	William Stephenson
Abbie Lipscomb	Brandon Easler
Jessica Johnson	Abigail Rogers
Maya Elhage	Dylan Mittag
Sophie-Jade Miron	Will Patterson
Jenny Hawkins	

***The Shack* by Wm. Paul Young with Mrs. Huminski**

Emily Hope Whitworth	Abbie Arvanites
Caroline Hinds	Melanie Arvanites
Danielle Neighbors	Christina Wright
Erica Rohlman	

***Socceronomics* by Kuper and Stefan Szymanski with Mr. Burnett**

Emilio Cerra	Danny Seyffer
Brad Thorne	Matthew Wellborn
Coleman Force	Allen Gillespie
Josh Johnson	Matt Thomas
Spencer Walker	Will Woodard
Josh Blake	Thomas Wildeman

***Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher with Mrs. Nail**

Langley Evans	Samantha Esce
Lexie Lohwasser	Victoria Lohwasser
Kathryn Johnston	Holli Hinds
Julia Ann Funk	Samantha Pressley
Claire Huminski	Maggie MacDonald

***Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts about Faith* by Anne Lamott with Mrs. Brown**

Abbi Webb	Kayla Cunningham
Lindsey Hoffman	Matt Cooley
Evan Bruns	Phillip MacDonald
Will Hollenbach	Madison Berube
Sarah Melotte	

***The Wave* by Todd Strasser with Mrs. MacDonald**

Davis Wells	Daniel Stephenson
David Wellborn	Landon Settlemyre
Brittney Doornbos	Luke Ledbetter
Jake Johnson	Walden Lacey
Reilly Peters	

***Washed by Blood* by Brian “Head” Welch with Mr. Tucker**

Bridget Gallagher	Ryan Hoffman
Justin Gibsion	Caleb Young
Nick Bridges	Steven Jaendl
Tim Eiss	