AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading

Overview

Incoming AP English Language (11th grade) students are required to read at least two books from the following list over the summer in preparation for the course and subsequent AP exam. One portion of the exam will require that you analyze and evaluate the language use and style of an author. As you read this summer, think about HOW the author has written the book (not just WHAT and WHY). AP Language is not preparation for college, it is college. Online summaries, such as SparkNotes or Cliff Notes, will not be sufficient to complete your summer reading assignment.

Assignment

Take 1 page of notes (front and back) for each book focusing on HOW the author writes. What about the language sticks out to you? What is different or interesting about the writing style? You can also discuss any significant themes, characters, or anything else that seems interesting or important. If you have any questions, please email me at seevec@collierschools.com.

- The Glass Castle (Walls)
- Slaughterhouse-Five (Vonnegut)
- Into the Wild (Krakauer)
- The Joy Luck Club (Tan)
- A Curious Incident of the Dog and the Night-time (Haddon)
- Unbroken (Hillebrand)
- The Scarlet Letter (Hawthorne)
- The Hate U Give (Thomas)

During your reading, you are required to complete 10 Double Entry Journal (DEJ) entries for each novel. Please refer to the instruction sheet if you have any questions.

Also:

Please send me an email at seevec@collierschools.com with the following information:

- Your name
- What English classes you’ve taken & your teachers

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- Your name
- What English classes you’ve taken & your teachers
- How often do you read the news? What’s your news source? An app? Newspaper? Online?
**DIALECTICAL JOURNALS**

The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the texts, your ideas about the themes we cover and our class discussions. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you're reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for your Literary Analysis assignments.

**PROCEDURE:**
- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column the chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage).

**Sample Dialectical Journal entry: Beyond the Yellow Highlighter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passages from the text-- Must quote at least 10 per reading assigned. Make sure to number them.</th>
<th>Pg#/¶</th>
<th>EACH Passage you Quote must relate to one of the following codes above. Make sure to use a variety. Using the same codes for most or all of your entries will result in a lower score.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. "The yellow marks in my college textbooks...did not help me very much.”  
2. "Annotations do make me read a lot slower and I wish I didn't have to do them. It is so much harder to fake read if you have to annotate like we have to do now. So now I actually read, because it's too hard to fake annotate" | 82/1  
87/2 | (C) I can relate since I often used to highlight what I thought was important and then end up with most of the page highlighted.  
(C) It is harder to fake annotate--it almost takes more time. (R) People are prone to find the easy way to do something. Since there's really no easy way to annotate--fake or real--it makes sense to really read and think about the texts. (Q) Is it really harder to fake read if you have to annotate? Or does it just take longer? |
CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT:

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

RESPONDING TO THE TEXT:

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be specific and detailed. You can write as much as you want for each entry. You can choose to type and save your journals as PDFs or you can write by hand and then scan and save as PDF.

Basic Responses

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author

Sample Sentence Starters:

I really don’t understand this because...
I really dislike/like this idea because...
I think the author is trying to say that...
This passage reminds me of a time in my life when...

Higher Level Responses

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc...)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole