



Literature IV Perspectives: Grade 12 *Summer Reading Assignment*

Literary Analysis: You are required to buy the summer reading novel and complete the literary analysis assignment on the following page.

Novel: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

ISBN: 978-1-101-97106-2

Overview/Description: Ghana, 18th century: Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the notorious Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and shipped off to America to be sold into slavery. With breathtaking scope, *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the slave traders of the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the Asantes' struggle against British colonialism to the first stirrings of the American Civil War, from the jazz of 20th century Harlem to the sparkling shores of modern Ghana. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation. (source: Penguin Random House)

List II Non-fiction: As you attempt, draft, and refine your Personal Statements for your college applications, these are two books you will want to read. Although the subject matter for each are starkly different, the writing style of both memoirs will be helpful to you in your own writing journey. The Personal Statement is a memoir vignette. Also, you will like them both.

Novel: *Educated* a Memoir by Tara Westover

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

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Directions: Students entering Grade 12 are required to read **3 novels**. Please email Ms. Twomey at ktwomey@thewoodwardschool.org with any questions. Summer Reading Assignments will be collected the first week of classes on Friday, September 6, 2024.

The following assignment is to be completed after reading *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Remember, you are required to buy the novel and bring it with you upon your return to school.

Read through the following list of motifs (ideas repeated throughout a work of literature) before and after you complete your reading. Choose the motif that best applies to your novel and develop a thesis statement discussing the author's message (theme) regarding the motif.

Your assignment is to develop a 3-point thesis statement and choose 1 point/claim from your thesis to write a body paragraph which proves that 1 claim from your thesis. You must use textual evidence to support your thesis/claim. **You must use 1 to 2 quotes, proper context, properly introduced, and properly analyzed.**

-Identity	-Pride/Envy/Greed	-Poverty	-Despair
-Education	-Racism	-Hope	-Culture
-Independent Thought	-Revolution/Rebellion	-Fear	-Truth v LIES
-Oppression	-Justice v injustice-Corruption	-Empathy	-Loneliness
-Courage	-Innocence/Awareness	-Guilt	-Depression

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Directions: The following is a list of guidelines and helpful hints to complete your summer reading literary analysis for *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Remember, you do not have to write an entire paper, just a 3-point thesis and one body paragraph that aligns with 1 point/claim from your thesis. Your assignment should be properly formatted and follow all MLA guidelines as described below.

Literary Analysis Guidelines and Helpful Hints

- Proofread your paper before turning it in. Read it out loud to someone else.
- All papers need to be: Times New Roman, 12 point Font, Double Spaced (MLA)
- Proper heading and alignment with a Header: do not add an extra space between paragraphs (MLA)
- When writing about literature it must be written in present tense
- You must introduce Title and Author within your paper. Titles of novels and plays are underlined or italicized. Do not put the title of a novel in “Quotations”
- Use a formal tone (no slang): Upgrade Vocabulary when possible; make sure you are using the word properly
- Paragraphs must be 5 to 7 sentences
- Write Concisely: do not announce intentions; be declarative: do not use passive voice. Steer clear of the following common mistakes:
 - “This quote shows...” “One reason is...”
 - Starting a paragraph with “For example” “Firstly/Secondly/Thirdly/Finally”
 - Passive voice: “Seem to be” “probably” “would/could/should” “HAD: has had... has been etc.”
- Do not use demonstrative pronouns: (This/That/These/Those)
- Do not use 1st/1st plural (I, me, us, we) or 2nd (you) person: Instead use “one” or “the reader”
- Proper Subject/Verb Agreement
 - Singular: One= He/She/His/Her
 - Plural: People=They/Their
- Don’t use contractions
- Citing Quotation: when using quotations, always introduce them. A quotation can never stand alone. Introduce the quotation, use quotation marks, and parenthetically cite the author’s last name and page number. Punctuation goes after the parenthesis.
 - Example: When describing her longing for her mother and shame of what she did as a child, Lily explains, “This is what I know about myself. She was all I wanted. And I took her away” (Kidd 143). Lily’s statement expresses her longing for a conventional mother figure and her regret for what she was told she did.