



Literature II: Grade 10 *Summer Reading Assignment*

All incoming 10th grade students are required to read 3 books in total.

Required: All students are required to read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Do not worry, it is not too long. It is, however, essential reading for high school college prep students.

Steinbeck, John

Of Mice and Men

List I Literary Analysis: Choose one novel from the list and complete the writing assignment. Directions are on the following page.

Alvarez, Julia

In The Time of Butterflies

Austen, Jane

Emma

Austen, Jane

Persuasion

Bronte, Charlotte

Jane Eyre

Dickens, Charles

David Copperfield

Doerr, Anthony

All the Light We Cannot See

Du Maurier, Daphne

Rebecca

Eliot, George

Silas Marner

Giles, Lamar

Overtaken

Guest, Judith

Ordinary People

Hemingway, Ernest

A Farewell to Arms

Orwell, George

1984

Brooks, Geraldine

Horse (a novel)

List II Non-fiction: Choose one book to read from the following non-fiction list. **You will have a writing assignment for the required non-fiction text upon returning to school.**

Louis Gates, Henry

Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow

Haley, Alex/Malcolm X

The Autobiography of Malcolm X

Hillenbrand, Laura

Unbroken; A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption

Larson, Erik

Isaac's Storm

Larson, Erik

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania

McCullough, David

John Adams

Millard, Candice

Destiny of the Republic

Moore, Kate

Radium Girls

Unger, Harlow Giles

John Quincy Adams

Unger, Harlow Giles

John Marshall

Wright, Evan

Generation Kill

Wickendon, Dorothy

The Agitators

Literature II: Grade 10 *Summer Reading Assignment*

Directions: All incoming 10th grade students are required to read **3 books in total.**

***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck**

1 Literary analysis novel (List I)

1 non-fiction book (List II)

Summer Reading Assignments will be collected the first week of classes on Friday, September 5, 2025.

****You will have an in-class writing assignment on your Non-fiction book (List II) once you return to school.**

****You will have in-class assignments associated with *Of Mice and Men* when you return**

Literary Analysis (List I ONLY): The following assignment is to be completed after reading a novel from List 1.

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 literary analysis summer assignment. 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 reveals her longing for a conventional mother figure and her regret for what she was told she did.