

The Book Analysis Project

You will sign up to read a work from my list to read independently (outside of the class). Please choose a work you have not read before. This assignment constitutes a major test grade for both the 2nd and the 4th nine weeks. Do not take this assignment lightly. Do not procrastinate.

You must take the time to complete a draft that can be revised. Do not turn in a paper that has not been revised and edited.

Remember that this independent reading is above and beyond what we will be reading and discussing in class, so plan your reading and research time wisely.

You will read the work carefully, directing particular attention to details that contribute to a coherent discussion of the items listed below. Each student will be responsible for turning in his/her own paper.

Choose a group of three and a novel from the list. Then discuss, in your group, who will be responsible for the content below. You must sign up with me. I must know who is in your groups, who will be responsible for what, and what novel you have chosen.

FORMAT:

1. Type the notes using 12 point font.
2. Use the MLA standard for your top left-hand heading: four lines with your name, teacher name, class identification, and date.
3. **Label each category. Skip lines between categories.**
4. Submit your work to <http://www.plagtracker.com/> to make sure you have not plagiarized.
5. Print out a hard copy as well as a digital copy to turn in to teacher on day of assessment.

CONTENT BY CATEGORIES:

1. **Title**, author, nationality, and date of original publication; translator if applicable.
2. **Setting**: time, place, social environment, atmosphere, and significance
3. **Structure** of the novel/play—organizational method, including point of view.
4. Brief **plot** synopsis (major events, key conflicts, climax, and resolution)
5. **Characters** (minimum of 5). Use descriptive phrases identifying significant or memorable traits.

6. **Symbols** or allusions (minimum of 3). List and explain significance of each.
7. **Motifs** (minimum of 3). Explain the significance of each. Include brief textual support.
8. **Genre** (including distinguishing characteristics) and brief description of **style** (Style is the manner of writing – how something is said rather than what is said. Style is determined by the author’s diction, imagery, detail, language, syntax, organization, etc.)
9. **Theme** – See below.
10. **Quotations** (at least 5) that are representative of the theme, accompanied by a brief explanation of the context and how the quotation relates to the theme
11. **Documentation** of sources used: You may use an abbreviated name of the source in parentheses for any and all sources utilized. Be extremely careful not to plagiarize; use quotes around any original material. Even if you reference ideas only, you must document. For example, (Spark Notes).
12. **Historical Context**- What is the copyright date of the book. What was going on during this time in history? Is there a connection between the time period in which it was written and the overall theme and plot of the story? Prove or disprove this. What was the author’s purpose in writing this novel?
13. **Poetry Connection**-You must find a poem that relates to the novel as a whole. Type this poem, a critical analysis and an explication of the poem, and connect it to your novel.
14. **Book Jacket**- You must create a book jacket for this novel. The book jacket must look like a true cover for your book. It must include a symbolic representation or symbolic representations of the novel, a synopsis of the novel, author information (life background), and a listing of other works by the same author. Number 1-13 must be inside the book jacket.

THEME:

1. Theme is the basic message. It is an abstract idea coupled with a universal comment or observation which addresses one of the following: (a) human motivation (b) the human condition (c) human ambition.
2. A strategy for discovering a work’s theme is to apply questions about these areas to the work:
 - What image of humankind emerges from the work? If people are good, what good things do they do? If people are no good, how and to what extent are they flawed?
 - What moral issues are raised in the work? Who serves as the “moral center” of the work? Who is the one person with whom the author vests right action and right thought? What values does the moral center embody?

- Is the society or social scheme portrayed by the author life-enhancing or life-destroying? What causes and perpetuates this society?
- What control over their lives do the characters have? Are there forces beyond their control?
- How do the title, subtitle, epigraph, and names of the characters relate to the theme?

3. In identifying and stating theme, be sure that the observation

(a) is not too terse to express the complexity of the human experience

(b) avoids moralizing words such as should and ought

(c) avoids specific reference to plot and characters

(d) avoids absolute words such as anyone, all, none, everything, and everyone

Books List

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

A River Runs Through It – Norman Maclean

Crime and Punishment – Fyodor Dostoevski

Bless Me, Ultima – Rudolfo Anaya

Moby Dick – Herman Melville

A Midsummer Night's Dream – William Shakespeare

Catch-22 – Joseph Heller

Sula – Toni Morrison

A Farewell to Arms- Ernest Hemingway

The Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck

As I Lay Dying – William Faulkner

Madame Bovary – Gustave Flaubert

The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams

Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen

Beloved – Toni Morrison

The Sun Also Rises- Ernest Hemingway

The Color Purple – Alice Walker

The Tempest- William Shakespeare

A Passage to India – E.M. Forster

Ethan Frome – Edith Wharton

Song of Solomon – Toni Morrison

Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift

Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy

Medea – Euripides

Candid – Voltaire

The Merchant of Vinice – William Shakespeare

Death of a Salesman- Arthur Miller

Tess of the D'Urbervilles – Thomas Hardy

The Jungle – Upton Sinclair

The Turn of the Screw – Henry James

For Whom the Bell Tolls – Ernest Hemingway

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? – Edward Albee

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck

Doctor Faustus – Christopher Marlowe

Out of Africa – IsaaK Dinesen

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – Ken Kesey

In the Time of Butterflies – Julia Alvarez

Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury

1984 – George Orwell

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley