

English II Honors Summer Reading Assignment 2017

In an effort to expose students to a variety of literature, we are proposing that students read either *The Awakening* (Kate Chopin) or *The Road* (Cormick McCarthy) for their Summer Reading. Both novels can be purchased at Barnes and Noble or online from such vendors as Amazon, etc... While these novels could be perceived as sensitive in nature, they are approved as selections for our first unit and house many themes that are important in literature and in regards to the human condition. In addition to the reading of the novel of their choosing, students will annotate their books for literary devices and will analyze how they are crafted to create a particular theme. Finally, students will complete a typed thematic essay (with resources provided). This thematic essay will serve as a jumping off point for the teaching of writing and will be the subject of a writing workshop within the second and third week of the school year. Essentially, your paper will discuss how a particular literary device (imagery, simile, metaphor, personification, word choice, symbolism, etc...) creates a theme and your main ideas will each be a literary device.

For example...

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a topic that shows up again and again is racism. What is Harper Lee trying to show us about racism? Well, quite simply, Harper Lee is trying to show the reader the dangers of racism and how detrimental it is to the progression of society. How does Harper Lee show that? Harper Lee uses the symbol of the mockingbird to show the reader the dangers in racism and how it is detrimental to the progression of society.

Objectives:

Students will be able to identify figurative language, characterization, and theme.

Students will be able to analyze an author's use of figurative language, plot structure, characterization, etc... and analyze how they create a theme.

Students will be able to evaluate a text to determine and interpret author's purpose/message.

Students will be able to draw on inferences, allusions, history, etc... to generate conclusions about the novel.

Students will be able to formulate a claim and defend it with textual evidence.

Students will be able to create a five paragraph essay complete with attention getter, topic sentences, textual evidence, analysis, and a conclusion.

Topics in *The Awakening*

Use these to create a theme—what is the message the author saying about this topic?

Womanhood

Marriage

Motherhood

Artist's Soul

Men

Independence

Creoles/Social Class

Topics in *The Road*

Use these to create a theme—what is the message the author saying about this topic?

Good versus Evil Religion

Love The Past

Violence

Life and Death

Facing Reality

Forgiveness and Contrition

Morality