

Summer Reading and Assignments - American Literature

Summer Reading Assignment

Teacher:

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Welcome to ~~American Literature~~! As a student in this course, you will engage in careful reading and analysis of major literary works from the beginning of our country to the present. The first couple of weeks will be devoted to the study and discussion of your summer reading assignment. Because these tasks will take some time, do not procrastinate and wait until the week before school starts to begin reading and completing your assignments. In order to start the year off positive and productive, you must complete the assignments to the best of your ability. Your work should always reflect careful reading and insight.

Please note that summer reading assignments are due on the first day of school.

There will also be a test over the novel on the first day of school.

Required Texts:

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne is considered a great American classic. Hawthorne was a Puritan who saw communities ravaged with rumors, deceit, contempt, and hypocrisy. He uses his literature to expose the overzealous religious fanatics and their flaws.

Assignment #1 Characterization

Characterization is the way an author develops a character, or reveals who characters are and what they are like.

Direct Characterization – The writer makes direct statements about a character.

Indirect Characterization - The writer gives clues and depends on the reader to draw conclusions (infer) about the character's traits. Indirect characterization includes what the character says, does, thinks, feels, and what other people say or think about the character, including said character's actions and words.

Directions: For each of the three main characters of the novel (Hester Prynne, Roger Chillingworth, and Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale), list three direct characterization quotes and seven indirect characterization quotes presented in the novel followed by the page number for indicating where each quote can be found in the text. For each of the direct characterization quotes (write down just the verbatim clauses and/or phrases), clarify what character trait is revealed by the author's description. For each of the indirect characterization clauses and/or phrases written verbatim from the text, explain the inferred character trait that is revealed. The provided worksheets can be used to organize your work, or you can originally create a format that meet the direction requirements.

This assignment will be what you use to write an in class essay utilizing MLA formatting that completely answers an essential question related to the novel. You will need these examples from the novel to serve as support for your analysis.

Assignment #2 Novel Cube

The novel cube will allow you to develop an outline of the novel you are reading. A cube has 6 faces. Your cube will be 6x6 or larger, and should have each of the following on its faces:

- 1 side will include the title of your book and the name of the author.
- 1 side will contain vital information about the author (birth name, birth date, birth place, occupation, death date).
- 1 side will contain an important event with an illustration of the event and captions explaining your illustration.
- 1 side will contain an important person in the book explained using 5 descriptive adjectives (minimum) creatively arranged.
- 1 side will include a short, personal reflection describing how the book affected you or its importance as a piece of literature. This must contain a minimum of five sentences.
- 1 side will include a short quote from an important person in the book. This quote should also be symbolically represented on the face.

*All faces must be appropriately decorated and colored and must be done neatly. Any and all writing on the faces of your cube must be neat and legible and the cube must be assembled neatly. You can either build your own cube or use some other form of a box.

Assignment #3 Reading Vocabulary

Choose at least twenty-five words that were challenging or unfamiliar to you. Write the unfamiliar/challenging word and page number where the word be found within the text. Use a dictionary to define the word based on the way it is used in the book. Do not use a word to define itself.

Hester Prynne

Revealed	Quote & Page Number	What Character Trait Is
Direct Characterization		
1		
2		
3		
Indirect Characterization		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Roger Chillingworth

Revealed	Quote & Page Number	What Character Trait Is
Direct Characterization		
1		
2		
3		
Indirect Characterization		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale

Revealed	Quote & Page Number	What Character Trait Is
Direct Characterization		
1		
2		
3		
Indirect Characterization		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		