

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
Summer Reading Assignment - June, 2009

To receive credit for your summer reading, a student must complete one of the two (2) assignments listed below and submit it to his or her teacher by the second day of classes. **(This does not apply to Honors English courses, which require a specific honors summer reading assignment)**

Assignment A: Book Review (25 Points)

After reading a book from the summer reading list, write a 3-5 paragraph, typed review essay. Below are some suggestions for organizing it.

Introduction

- State title and author.
- Give a brief (2-3 sentence) summary of the book.
- Give a one-sentence opinion of the book that will serve as your main idea.

Body Paragraphs

Support your opinion of the book by using examples of how the author develops various aspects of the book. For example:

If Fiction:

- Discuss how the author develops the theme or handles the plot.
- Describe important characters and the impact of setting.
- Identify key scenes from the story that stand out.

If Non-Fiction

- Discuss the author's thesis and method of development. (examples, statistics, etc.)
- Identify the author's expertise for writing on the subject.
- Discuss the quality of the author's evidence- examples, statistics, etc.

If Auto/Biography

- Identify and explain the author's motives in writing the book.
- Explain what insight the author provides towards understanding the subject better.
- Is the material organized in an effective manner?

Conclusion

- Suggest who else might be interested in this book.
- Speculate on the impact this book might have on other people or society in general.

Or

Assignment B (50 Points)

Write one (1) analytical essay of no fewer than 500 words on one of the topics listed below.

Fiction/Drama

One can truly be alone despite the presence of other people. In the fictional work you have read, identify an alienated character and analyze the causes, which led to this condition. Support your views with specific examples from the book.

or

In life we all face choices and consequences; describe the main character's pivotal moments and how he or she resolves the dilemma. How does this action impact the theme of the novel?

Non-Fiction

To what extent has the book reshaped your own views on the topic. Write a letter to the author of the book taking a position on the issue. You may agree or disagree with the author, but you must support your position with specific examples. Be sure to address the concerns the author raised in his or her book.

Auto/biography

We often read auto/biographies to find strength, wisdom, and insight that we can then apply to our own lives. This knowledge may come from either a positive or a negative example. Consider the many experiences discussed in the book, what lesson or portion of wisdom can one draw from the person's life? How might it apply to your own life? Support your ideas with examples from the book.

Poetry

Discuss three poems with similar themes. How do the authors use literary devices such as imagery, simile, metaphor, etc. to develop their ideas?

The following works represent some of the major units of study for the respective grade levels. These works will be covered along with other works during the 2005-2006 school year. We encourage students to explore one or more of the works from their grade level to provide them with a "head-start" for the upcoming school year.

Seniors

Siddhartha
Hamlet
The Stranger
The Color of Water

Junior

Macbeth
Canterbury Tales
Lord of the Flies
Angela's Ashes

Sophomores

To Kill a Mockingbird
The Crucible
Much Ado About Nothing

Freshmen

Romeo and Juliet
Of Mice and Men
The Odyssey