

2017 Summer Reading Assignments – English IV

Start this assignment early. If you are having difficulty with the assignment, whether comprehending the reading or completing the analysis and/or written work, email me at athomson@johnpaul2chs.org as soon as possible. Emailing me and asking for help is the best way to get the most out of the assignment; it will also help you avoid panicking and help you maintain academic integrity (see my note at the end of this assignment). However, also please do not wait until the last minute to contact me, as I cannot guarantee timely help for you in the last week before school begins. Your assignments will be collected the first week of school; please have them prepared for the first day. I look forward to seeing you soon. God Bless and have a good summer!

My Ántonia, by Willa Cather

Assignments:

1. **Not mandatory; for extra credit:** As you read, you may annotate your novel (to annotate is just to make marks/notes on the text). You can make notes directly onto the text by highlighting and writing in the margins. Or, if you prefer not to write on the text, then you can use something like sticky notes and place them on the page where you would want your note to be. As a general rule, you should have at least 1 annotation per page, often with more for scenes that are richer or more in depth parts of the narrative. Possibilities for annotation:

Highlight/Mark in the text:

- Character names and descriptions
- Setting (time, place, environment, weather, etc.)
- Vocabulary words you do not know
- Passages that show and/or connect to a theme in the text
- Passages that show major changes in characters
- Passages that are important and/or central to the text overall
- ***Use a color where the text underneath can still be easily seen, and be careful not to over-highlight! It should draw your attention to specific parts, not fill the page with color.

Write in the margins:

- Summarize chapters or sections so you will remember the basic outline later
- Make predictions about what will occur later in the text, especially if you see something that foreshadows (gives a hint or clue about) future events
- Make notes/comments about the form and structure of the text

- Make connections to your own life, other literature you have read, media you have seen, or real world events
- Ask questions about what is going on in the text
- Make inferences about the purpose of specific parts included or techniques used by the author
- Make comments on the tools and techniques the author is using – mood, tone, point of view, selection of detail, diction (word choice), syntax (word order/sentence structure), figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, imagery), etc.
- Comment on any major themes, symbols, or motifs in the text
- Write about any patterns or repetitions you see in the text
- Explain your personal reaction to/opinion of parts of the text

2. **Mandatory/Required:** You will create a critical thinking response journal for your novel. You should use your annotations to help you create the journal. **Please type out your journal (use Times New Roman 12 point font with 1 inch margins); include a cover page with your name, my name, and class name. Keep the electronic copy of this assignment saved as well in case I need you to turn it in electronically.** The format for this journal follows below:

CRITICAL THINKING RESPONSE JOURNAL FORMAT:

You will write **three (3)** journal responses that span the entire novel – they should not be just from the beginning or one part of the novel. Each entry should include all numbers below (#1-6) and should be a minimum of one single spaced page or longer excluding #1 (the quote itself). For each entry, make sure that you include all of the following (a response of “I don’t know” or “I don’t have a personal connection/question/etc.” is not acceptable):

1. IMPORTANT QUOTE:

Choose a quote from the novel that you feel is important in some way. Make sure you choose the quote yourself and do not consult other sources to find and/or analyze it. Write out the passage and the page number. Don’t forget to put quotation marks around the excerpt and parentheses around the page number!

2. CONTEXT:

Describe the context in which the quotation appears. What is going on when this quote arises? Who is speaking? Who is listening?

3. INFERENCE:

What inferences can you make at this point based on this quotation? Meaning, what educated guesses can you make about what is going on in the quote? What conclusions can you draw from reading between the lines of the quote? What can you see is going on with the characters, mood, tone, setting, plot, etc.?

4. SIGNIFICANCE:

Explain the importance of the quote. Why is this quote important to the work as a whole, or if it is not significant to the work overall, why is it significant to the chapter, part, scene, etc. which it came from?

5. PERSONAL CONNECTION:

In what way do you have or can you see a personal connection to this quotation? How is it applicable to your life? What implications does it have in connection with your sense of your own identity?

6. QUESTIONS:

What question(s) can you ask that spring from this quotation or your reading of the novel at this point? Write at least one or more question(s) that you could pose to your peers and/or teacher about this quote.

An Important Note on Academic Integrity:

Mrs. Thomson's Academic Integrity policy will be applied to these summer assignments. You will not receive credit because you alone did not do all of the work, or you assisted someone else without permission in a specifically individual assignment. Any plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in receiving a 0 for the assignment that cannot be made up, your parents and administration being notified, and additional administrative action being taken in the form of detention, student/parent conference, suspension, etc.

Using any source(s) in place of reading the book, whether an internet site, a friend, a parent or other family member, a summary, etc. constitutes academic dishonesty. Using any source other than yourself to find quotes, or for textual explanation, answering questions, or textual analysis (including an internet site, a friend, a parent or other family member, etc.) also constitutes academic dishonesty. While collaboration is useful in many circumstances, this is an individual assignment and you are not allowed to work collaboratively to complete it. Giving answers, information, or materials to another student to complete the assignment also constitutes academic dishonesty, and will be treated according to the same policy.