

High School Summer Reading List 2024

Please choose from one of the following books listed under your incoming grade. **This is an optional assignment** but is worth **up to** 100% of a test grade depending on quality of writing and may be used to enhance or replace a test grade.

Grade 9 (2-3 pages)

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
The Old man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
Through the Gates of Splendor by Elisabeth Elliot
Call of the Wild by Jack London
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Grade 10 (3-4 pages)

Life of Pi by Yann Martel
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas
The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo
Mark of the Lion Trilogy by Francine Rivers
Don Quixote de la Mancha by Miguel de Cervantes
The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day by Scott O'Dell
The Fault of Our Stars by John Green
Dawn by Elie Wiesel (sequel to *Night*)
Day by Elie Wiesel (third in *Night* trilogy)

Grade 11 (4-5 pages)

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Remarque
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stow
Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemmingway
Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington
Sir Percy leads the Band by Emma Orczy (sequel to *The Scarlet Pimpernel*)

Grade 12 (5 pages)

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Inferno by Dante (part of his larger *Divine Comedy*)
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Hounds of Baskerville by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien

Once and Future King by T.H. White

Assignment

Write a review of your chosen novel in MLA format to the length noted next to your incoming grade. Your essay should identify the theme, protagonist, antagonist, setting, location, time period, perspective, and Biblical worldview of the text. Utilize the literary analysis overview document from the 2023-2024 school year as a guide (also below). USE SCRIPTURE TO SUPPORT YOUR ARGUMENT! Assignment is due by Friday, August 23, 2024.

*Book synopses can be found on plugged-in: <https://www.pluggedin.com/> and Christian books <https://www.christianbook.com/?navcat=toplogo>

LITERARY ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

Note: In the “Questions to ask” section for each element, the questions listed are not in any particular order and may be repetitive in some cases. This is not a definitive list of questions; each question is simply a starting point to get you thinking about the element.

PARAGRAPH 1: INTRODUCTION (must have the following in the 1st paragraph)

- **Attention Grabber**
- **Title of book and name of author**
- **Background information about the author**
- **Setting (place and historical time period)**

Thesis: A formula for the most basic analysis thesis could look something like

this: In (title of poem/novel/play), (author's name) uses (1st literary device), (2nd literary device), and (3rd literary device) to (show/criticize/explain/etc.) (Some aspect of human nature).

Notice that the second part of such a thesis (beginning with "to") identifies the theme of the story, which will be the focus of the analysis. An example of this type of thesis is:

In Piercing the Darkness, the author uses theme, character, setting, and point of view to show that man experiences spiritual warfare every day because of the sinful nature he possesses.

PARAGRAPH 2: THEME (minimum one quote for this paragraph)

Theme is a central or underlying idea enforced by the work

Ex. life is futile, all things work for the greatest good, etc.

Often more than one theme appears in any given work. Analysis of theme should include a statement of the major concept or theme of the piece.

Questions to ask about Theme:

- State the theme in a single sentence.
- Does the theme reinforce or oppose popular notions of life?
- Do certain passages - dialogue or description - seem to point especially toward the theme?

Paragraph #3: Characters (minimum one quote for this paragraph)

- Who is the protagonist (main character)? What makes him/her a protagonist? Explain using the definition. Ex. Sir Percy Blankeney is a champion of courage and

morality who risks his life to save France's nobility from the blood-thirsty revolutionaries during France's Reign of Terror, making him a protagonist of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

- What revealing things does this character say?
- What revealing things does this character do? (These are qualities of **round** or **flat** – discuss these terms and explain why the character embodies them using the definition)
- What evidence in the novel leads you to this opinion of the protagonist? (quote)
- Does the character change in the course of the work? If so, how?
(These are qualities of **dynamic** or **static** – discuss these terms and explain why the character embodies them using the definition)
- What do other characters say or think about the character?
- What, if any, direct statements about the character's personality does the narrator make?
- _____ Who are the **dramatic foils**? What makes them dramatic foils? (explain why the character embodies using the definition)

PARAGRAPH 4A: SETTING/ POINT OF VIEW (minimum one quote)

The setting is the place or location of a story's actions along with the time period in which it occurs.

Analysis of Setting should include:

- evaluation of how setting relates to create mood
- evaluation of how setting reflects theme
- evaluation of how setting impacts characters
- evaluation of how setting impacts the conflict
- analysis of how change in setting impacts mood, character, or conflict

Questions to ask about setting:

- Do you have a strong sense of the time and place? For example, is the story about New England Puritanism, or race relations in the South in the late nineteenth century, or Midwestern urban versus small-town life?
- What is the relation of the setting to the plot and the characters? Would anything be lost if the descriptions of the setting were deleted from the story or if the setting were changed?

PARAGRAPH 4B: POINT OF VIEW:

Point of view is an author's decision about who is to tell the story and how it is to be told.

Analysis of Point of View should include:

- explanation of point of view: first, second, third, third person omniscient or limited
- analysis of impact of point of view on theme and setting.

Questions to ask about Point of View:

- Which point of view is used? Are shifts made from one type of point of view to another? If so, why?
- What advantage is the chosen point of view?
- Does it provide any clues to the work's purpose?
- Does the author use it primarily to reveal or to conceal information?
- Does the author ever unfairly withhold important information known to the main character?
- If the point of view is that of one of the characters, does this character have any limitations that affect his/her interpretation of events or others?
- Who tells the story?
- How much does the narrator know?
- Does the narrator strike you as reliable?
- What effect is gained by using this narrator?
- How does the point of view help shape the theme?

PARAGRAPH 5: CONCLUSION

Your literary analysis essay **MUST** have a concluding paragraph that gives your essay a sense of completeness and lets your readers know that they have come to the end of your paper. Questions that should be answered here are:

- It should answer the question: **So What?** Why do we still read this today?
- What is the significance of the tools used by this author even though the story is read years after the original writing?
- Are there lessons to be learned regardless of the time it was written?
- What lessons do the characters teach?

REMINDERS:

ALWAYS WRITE ABOUT LITERATURE IN THE PRESENT TENSE.

NEVER USE CONTRACTIONS.

NEVER USE FIRST OR SECOND PERSON PRONOUNS (I, YOU, ME, YOUR).

ALWAYS DOUBLE SPACE.

MINIMUM OF FIVE PARAGRAPHS (could be more)

MINIMUM OF FIVE SENTENCES PER PARAGRAPH (could be more)

IF THE AUTHOR'S NAME IS USED IN THE SENTENCE, THEN ONLY THE PAGE NUMBER IS NEEDED IN THE CITING OF THE REFERENCE. (675)

For example: Poe shows the fear when he says, "....." (675).

IF THE AUTHOR'S NAME IS *NOT* USED IN THE SENTENCE, THEN THE AUTHOR'S NAME AND THE PAGE NUMBER ARE BOTH NEEDED IN THE CITING OF THE REFERENCE. (RIVERS 675)

For example: Fear is shown when he says, "....." (Poe 675).