

HONORS LITERATURE 11 & 12: The Literature of Europe and Beyond
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2018-2019

Your summer assignment for Honors Literature contains three parts, which should be completed in order: a short journal, reading a novel, and writing a short essay.

1. Pre-reading Journal

In well-crafted paragraphs, answer the following questions in the first person:

1. Recall a novel that you have read that taught you a lasting lesson about life or about yourself.

In your journal, name the title and author, offer a brief recollection of the plot, and explain the personal knowledge gained from the experience of reading it.

2. How would you describe the experience of reading? Do you ‘see’ images in your mind as you read? Do you prefer paper or digital texts? What is it about certain texts that keeps you engaged in reading, and what is it that most often makes you dislike reading?

This journal should be typed, double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font, and should begin with a heading containing your name, incoming grade level, and date of completion. A printed copy is due at the start of the first day of class. Please correctly indicate titles using the appropriate quotation marks or italics. For MLA guidance, visit:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

2. Reading the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, by Oscar Wilde

As you read, annotate for important ideas, themes, and concepts. There will be an open-book test the first week of school, and this text will be referenced in our first unit.

3. Essay

Write a 2-3 page essay addressing the following prompt:

Morally ambiguous characters – characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good – are at the heart of many works of literature.

Choose a character from The Picture of Dorian Gray who can be viewed as morally ambiguous, and write an essay explaining how this is shown and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid extensive plot summary.

Your essay should be completed using in MLA format, but include a cover page with your name, the book title, and your grade (11th or 12th). Your essay should be typed, double spaced, and in 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font with 1" margins. I would expect this paper to be 2-3 pages long. A printed copy is due at the start of the first day of class.

ESSAY RUBRIC

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Content	The essay demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the prompt and explains the ambiguity of the character, as well as the importance to the text as a whole. Includes a strong thesis statement.	The essay demonstrates understanding of the prompt and explains the ambiguity of the character, as well as the importance to the text as a whole. Includes a thesis statement.	The essay demonstrates an understanding of the prompt and explains the ambiguity of the character and/or the importance to the text as a whole. Missing a thesis statement.	The essay lacks understanding of the prompt and/or clarity of writing.
Introduction and Conclusion	Includes an eloquent and clear introduction and conclusion, with a skillful building of ideas within the essay.	Includes a basic introduction and conclusion.	Introduction and conclusion are simply the same phrases repeated.	Missing either an introduction or conclusion.
Evidence	Supports the analysis with relevant, sufficient, strategically chosen, and correctly (MLA) cited textual evidence. (At least 3 quotes from the source text.)	Supports this analysis with relevant, sufficient, strategically chosen, and correctly (MLA) cited textual evidence. (2 quotes from the source text.)	Supports this analysis with relevant, sufficient, strategically chosen, and correctly (MLA) cited textual evidence. (1 quote from the source text.)	Textual evidence missing, irrelevant, or not correctly cited.
Proofreading and Language	1. Demonstrates sophisticated vocabulary. 2. Maintains a formal style and objective tone. 3. Shows a strong command of the conventions of standard written English and contains two or fewer errors of spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation.	1. Demonstrates sophisticated vocabulary. 2. Maintains a formal style and objective tone. 3. Shows a strong command of the conventions of standard written English and contains 3-5 errors of spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation.	1. Demonstrates basic vocabulary. 2. Maintains a formal style and objective tone. 3. Shows a strong command of the conventions of standard written English and contains more than 5 errors of spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation.	Vocabulary, informality, objectivity, or proofreading impede meaning for the reader.
Formatting and Timeliness	1. Is 2-3 pages in length 2. Contains cover and source pages 3. Is double-spaced 4. Is a correct 12-pt font 5. Is turned in on time	Missing one of five requirements.	Missing two of five requirements.	Missing three or more of five requirements.

Essay Tips

Please print and keep in your class binder for reference.

- Always double space. Your teacher needs room to make comments.
- If requested, be sure to include a cover page. If you include any sources in your essay, a sources page should follow it.
- Always italicize the titles of long texts. Book titles never, never, never go in quotation marks.
- Don't switch tenses in the middle of a report. Stick with either the present or the past.
Be careful not to switch between present and past: "The girl fell down, but Ms. Smith comes and helps her."
- Watch out for run-on sentences that just go on and on and even if your idea changes to something else that might be in another paragraph, such as a story about Joan of Arc, you just can't stop that sentence from running all up and down the page, which, by the way, should always be double spaced.
- Fragments. Don't. Writing in fragments, which don't have a subject and a verb. Causing much confusion in the reader. Because your sentences need to breathe, and have a beginning, middle, and end.
- Don't write in fragments. Be sure that every sentence has a subject and a verb. In addition, a sentence will only under special circumstances begin with "because."
- Always proofread everything you have written. Please use spelling and grammar checking tools.