



## English Literature and Composition (12 AP): Summer Reading 2009-2010

To the Students and Parents/Guardians of incoming English 12 AP students:

All students in our honors English program are required to read literature during the summer and complete an accompanying assignment in preparation for the upcoming school year. Many students enrolled in English Literature and Composition will choose to take the Advanced Placement exam, and these students will need to have read a wide range of texts in order to be successful.

We have chosen the following selections for incoming English 12 AP students. Students will read one of the novels in addition to the second required book. A dialectical journal for the novel (explained below) must be completed and turned in to the English 12 AP teacher on the first day of student attendance. The dialectical journal is to be completed for the novel only. The Foster text should be annotated. It is highly recommended that students who are serious about taking the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition exam their senior year read as many of these selections as possible. Also, please read the Foster text **prior** to reading the novel as it provides insight and purpose to your dissection of the fictional work.

### Novel (Choose One)

\**Catch-22* by Joseph Heller

\**The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

\**Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor

### Second Required Book

\**How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

Please feel free to contact Kristen Kuklinski if you have any questions or concerns. She can be reached at (815) 577-5955 or [kkuklins@learningcommunity202.org](mailto:kkuklins@learningcommunity202.org). This information is also available in the English Department's section of the school website [www.learningcommunity202.org/pshs/depts/english](http://www.learningcommunity202.org/pshs/depts/english).

## The Dialectical Journal – Modified Version

For this particular study of literature, a reading journal is required. It is essential for this reading assignment that you take notes for the journal as you read along. Additionally, students must purchase a stenographer's notebook for this project.

There is one rigid rule for the format of this type of journaling that you must follow: Take all of your reading notes on only the right hand pages. Leave the opposing pages blank for later. A good rule of thumb is one page of journaling for every 10-15 pages of text.

- ❖ The RIGHT hand page is for comments on the reading.
- ❖ The LEFT hand page is for comments on the right hand page.

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### OK – So what do I write on the right hand pages?

Many different ideas can be expressed in your reading commentaries. Here are suggestions for you to follow:

1. Write at the times when the reading changes.
  - You see something you didn't see before.
  - You recognize a pattern: overlapping images, repetitions of idea, details, colors that make a connection, etc.
  - You discover that the story is about something different from what you originally thought it was about.
2. Write about something that puzzled or confused you.
3. Include details that seem important.
4. Make connections to your life or the lives of others.
5. Focus on the author's use of style.
  - Is there use of flashback?
  - Is the dialogue authentic?
  - Are there shifts in point-of-view or narration?

*\*Make certain you are specific in your observations and note the page numbers!*

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### Ok – So what do I write on the left hand pages?

1. Before you resume reading, review some of what you have written on the right hand pages. Take a moment to reflect on this writing.
2. Was there something that you misread before but now understand?
3. As a reader:
  - What did you find you focused on the most?
  - What did you find you cared about the most?
  - Have you found yourself sympathetic to the characters? Why, or why not?
  - What has this author done to provoke anger, confusion, or greater within you?
  - Are you learning something new and different from this author that you could use to improve your writing?

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These are suggestions for you as a reader, writer, and thinker. If there are any connections not included here that you find important, note them on the right hand side of the page and comment on these connections on the left hand side of the page. Remember, this is your journal!

Also, please note that the dialectical journal is a basis for upcoming written assignments that coincide with the texts throughout the year.