

Mt. Juliet Christian Academy Summer Reading Program 2021-2022

Summer reading is designed to be a reinforcement and extension of the work that is done during the school year in the English classroom. We have found that the more students read, the better prepared they are for higher education in addition to their other academic classes. All learning is impacted by a student's reading ability. With this in mind, the MJCA English Department assigns two reading assignments to be completed over the summer.

Each grade in **high school** is expected to read one assigned novel and one book of choice. Students will complete an assignment over both books. These assignments are worth a test grade and will be due the first day you have English class. (School starts August 11th.) The grade will be reduced a complete letter grade for each day it is late.

Students are highly encouraged to complete the assignment early. If you have questions, you may contact your English teacher.

English 9 Summer Reading Assignments

Questions for this assignment should be emailed to Mrs. Gaddes at sgaddes@mjca.org or Mrs. Shoemaker at sshoemaker@mjca.org

Book #1

Pick one of the following books to read. Then complete the assignment.

1. *Beowulf* – storybook version by Rosemary Sutcliff
2. *Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter
3. *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
4. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Assignment #1

Character Analysis Essay Assessment: Motivation for Change

Background: Most literature includes dynamic characters who mirror our real selves. As characters communicate their stories, they experience conflicts and engage in dramatic interactions that shape their personalities and alter their fates.

Prompt: Your task is to write a four- paragraph essay in which you analyze two reasons why the protagonist or a main character changes throughout the entire novel. The reasons can be character interactions, a conflict, a sudden realization, and/or learning new information about himself/herself, or many other reasons.

Use the following guideline for your essay:

Introductory paragraph:

- Start with your **hook**. Introduce the topic to the reader. This is an interesting statement about the subject matter of character changes.
- Transition to the **background**. Introduce the reader to your book (title, author, a brief 2-3 sentence synopsis).
- End with your **thesis statement**: The thesis statement directly answers the prompt in one sentence. You should also forecast the two reasons why your main character changes.

Supporting paragraph #1:

- Topic sentence: First reason mentioned in thesis statement WHY the protagonist changes
- two supporting quotes that PROVE the reason is true
- complex explanations of HOW the quotes prove it is true.

Supporting paragraph #2:

- Topic sentence: Second reason mentioned in thesis statement WHY the protagonist changes
- two supporting quotes that PROVE the reason is true
- complex explanations of HOW the quotes prove it is true.

Concluding paragraph: Restate your thesis, summarize your main ideas, wrap up your essay.

MLA formatting and citations:

- Your essay must be typed and turned electronically by either emailing your teacher or through google classroom once that is available to you.
- Double spaced, 12pt. font, and a plain script like Times New Roman or Calibri
- Make sure your essay is your own work. Use MLA in text citations to give credit to your supporting quotes. If you use outside sources, be sure to cite any information you use, even if you paraphrase or summarize the information. Your essay will be checked using a plagiarism detector.
- Provide a works cited page.

Book #2: A book of Choice

Choose any book that is your reading level, at least 150 pages, and that you have never read. It can be fiction or nonfiction. Complete the following assignment.

Assignment #2:

Sell your book to the class. In a creative and engaging presentation using persuasive strategies, convince your audience that they should read the novel or play you selected. You may use the

format of a traditional speech, a commercial, a PowerPoint, a multimedia presentation, a video, skit or podcast, etc. Be creative!

Questions to answer:

Who was the author?

When was the play/novel originally published?

Why did you choose this book?

What is the plot of this book? (fiction)

What are the main ideas of this book? (nonfiction)

*What about this novel or play makes it “interesting”? (Was it the storyline? Character development? Setting? Suspense? Surprise ending? New or surprising information? It caused you to think critically about a topic? Etc.) Give at least two reasons in your presentation and support each reason with examples from the text.

*This part of the presentation should be the longest and have the most depth and detail.

Be sure to include a works cited page for your assignment. Your presentation must be between 3-5 minutes in length. You will be graded on the following: delivery (voice, tone, inflection) and the content and organization (flow of your presentation).

Student Resources:

The parts of an essay and sample essay (This is for a five paragraph essay, but the same concept applies.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFRZBdsZ7xs>

The basics of MLA in text citations

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

Examples of Sample works cited page

<https://guides.lib.unc.edu/citing-information/mla8-sample>

*Rubrics for these assignments will be available later in the summer through Google Classroom.

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“Determining Literary Merit.” Chapin High School.

<https://carterclasschs.weebly.com/determining-literary-merit.html>