

Sr. Fadia Darwish
American Literature Honors
Summer Reading Work 2019
Fdarwish@rsanj.org

Welcome to American Literature Honors

Your summer reading is an essential component to start the year right. The book listed below was selected to best prepare you for success in your American Literature class.

Please read the following book over the summer:

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

A) For this book you must complete the following:

1. Historical information: When does the novel take place and what socially or culturally significant events are occurring?
2. Biographical information: What are some important facts about the author?
3. Characteristics of the genre: What is the genre of the book and what are the characteristics of that genre?
4. Plot Summary: What are the main or most important events that occur in the novel?
5. Memorable Quotes: You may need to complete this on a separate sheet of paper.

Write down **10** quotes from the beginning, middle and end of the novel and explain why they are important to one of the following:

Character, Setting, Conflict, Theme or a Literary Device such as Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Imagery, Symbolism, or Allusion
(Try to apply each term at least once)

6. Characters: Write down the name, role and significance of the main characters and 2-3 adjectives that describe each character.
7. Setting: The specific time, place and era the novel takes place.
8. Symbols: Any objects, people, or places that you feel are representative of something else. Make sure you tell me the symbol as well as what it symbolizes or represents.
9. Possible Themes: What are **two** possible themes? Remember a theme is what the author is trying to show us about human nature or life. What can we all relate to?
10. Significance of the opening scene: Why is the opening scene important? What does it set up or how does it add to the rest of the novel?
11. Significance of the closing scene? Why is the closing scene important? How does it conclude the novel or what message does it leave us with?

Answer the following essay prompt:

It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from *The Scarlet Letter*. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

Summer Reading Grades:

When you return in the fall I will check the work you have completed for *The Scarlet Letter* on the first or second day of class.

DO NOT take the answers from on-line; you will receive a ZERO if you are suspected of plagiarizing.

You will be tested on the novel within the first marking. I realize that the summer reading texts can be easily obtained online and that you could complete the work without reading the book. But you have been given an essay prompt that will be impossible to complete unless you have actually read the text. Please do not attempt to write an essay on a book you haven't read-it will not go well.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE SUMMER READING WILL AFFECT THE 1ST MARKING PERIOD GRADE, AS THIS IS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE GRADED AS A TEST and Quiz GRADE.

Good Luck, and remember it's never too early to start your summer reading!