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American Literature Honors
Summer Reading Work 2021
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WELCOME TO AMERICAN LITERATURE HONORS

Your summer reading is an essential component to start the year right.

Summer Reading Grades:

When you return in the fall I will collect the work you have completed for *The Scarlet Letter* by *Nathaniel Hawthorne* on the first day of class. (You can also email it to me at fdarwish@rsanj.org)

You will have to 2 parts to complete for your summer reading:

1. The study guide questions
 - a. Questions to help guide you through the reading and ensure your understanding
2. The essay
 - a. Character analysis essay

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. 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 Grade and a Writing grade..

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

The Scarlet Letter

Answer these on your own using **COMPLETE** sentences and text evidence where applicable.

Chapters 1-4

1. Identify Hester Prynne, Pearl, Rev. Mr. Dimmesdale and Roger Chillingworth.
2. What emblem did Hester have to wear? Why was she sentenced to wear it?
3. What information did Hester refuse to tell the officials and Mr. Dimmesdale?
4. What was the relationship between Hester and Roger Chillingworth?
5. What did Hester promise to Roger Chillingworth?

Chapters 5-7

1. Hester is released from prison. Why doesn't she run away to a different settlement?
2. How did Hester support herself and Pearl?
3. Describe Pearl.
4. Describe Hester's feelings towards Pearl.
5. Why did Hester go to see Governor Bellingham?
6. What did Hester and Pearl see in the breastplate of the armor? What is the significance of the exaggeration?

Chapters 8-10

1. Mr. Wilson asks Pearl, "Canst thou tell me, my child, who made thee?" What is Pearl's answer? Why did she say that?
2. What convinced the Governor to let Hester keep Pearl?
3. How did Roger Chillingworth become Dimmesdale's medical advisor?
4. Who is the leech? Why is he called that in the title of the chapter?
5. Why did Mr. Dimmesdale rush from the room to end the conversation he had with Roger Chillingworth?

Chapters 11-13

1. What does Rev. Dimmesdale's congregation think of him? Why is that ironic?
2. Where did Mr. Dimmesdale go at midnight? Why?
3. What did Pearl ask Mr. Dimmesdale?
4. What "sign" did the meteor make in the sky?
5. Where had Mr. Wilson, Hester, Pearl and Roger Chillingworth been that night, that they would all be walking by the scaffolding at midnight?
6. What was the other view of Hester?

Chapters 14-17

1. What did Hester tell Roger Chillingworth when they met on the peninsula?
2. Why do Hester and Pearl go to the forest?
3. When Mr. Dimmesdale finds out that Roger Chillingworth is out for revenge, he knows his religious career in Boston will be at an end and his life will be miserable. What does Hester suggest?

Chapters 18-21

1. What did Hester have to do by the brook before Pearl would come across?
2. Mr. Dimmesdale kissed Pearl. What did she do in response?
3. How did Rev. Mr. Dimmesdale's attitude change after he decided to leave Boston with Hester?

Chapters 22-24

1. What shocking news did the commander of the Bristol ship bring Hester?
2. What did Mr. Dimmesdale tell the people of New England before he died?
3. What did the people see when Mr. Dimmesdale took off his ministerial band?
4. What happens to Hester, Pearl and Roger Chillingworth?

Each question is worth 3 points

Total: /81

The Essay

As you read **The Scarlet Letter**, try to understand and evaluate the characters actions and motives guiding those actions. Make sure to annotate important parts of the novel as you read. This will help you when it comes time to write your essay.

Assignment: Your task is to write a **five paragraph** character analysis essay about one major character from The Scarlet Letter. Once you have chosen a character to analyze, choose three adjectives or descriptive phrases which you can apply to the character – these are traits that the character possesses. You will organize the body of your essay around these three traits.

Thesis Statement: This sentence is the last sentence of your introductory paragraph. This sentence will inform the reader what he or she will read in your essay. The thesis should include the character’s name and the 3 adjectives. (DO NOT simply list the adjectives in your thesis.)

EXAMPLE OF A THESIS: Throughout the novel To Kill a Mockingbird, Jem Finch evolves from a child to adolescent by becoming **more mature socially**, more **enlightened** about the world around him, and more **brave** from personal experiences.

This is a good thesis because the reader knows the first body paragraph will show how Jem becomes more mature based on his social interactions, the second will demonstrate how he becomes enlightened based on what is happening in his “world”, and the third demonstrates the bravery he gains from experiences throughout the novel. Also, the descriptors are vivid and apt for the character.

Quotation Requirements: **Each body paragraph must have at least 2 quotes that support your thesis.** You must include the page number of the quotation and introduce or lead in the quotation properly. For example: When telling about Jem’s attempt to touch the Radley house, Scout tells the reader, “In all his life, Jem never declined a dare” (29). (Notice how I introduced the quotation, where I put the quotation marks, and how I noted the page number.)

Guidelines:

- You need an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Your direct quotations should be no more than three lines long each.
- Use an MLA heading and page format.
- The paper must be typed; 12 point font; Times New Roman; one inch margins; double-spaced.
- You must have a Creative Title. “Character Analysis”, “Jem”, or something to that effect does not work.

Writing Tips You Must Follow (or lose points):

- Check and double-check your paper.

- Avoid contractions (can't, won't, etc.) unless in a quotation.
- Don't use slang or common words (thing, stuff, etc.), unless in a quotation.
- Write only in third person. Don't use "you" or "I."
- Do not underline or put your title in quotations.
- Use sentence variety (simple, compound, complex).
- Use specific, vivid, and detailed incidents and examples to support your thesis.
- Fix all comma splice errors, run-ons, and sentence fragments.(if you don't know what these are, Google it)
- Run spell check, but remember that it won't catch the wrong use of words (hear/here).
- Write in all present tense. Books never "end" – they continue on for a new reader.
- Fix all typing errors.
- Make sure all paragraphs are indented a half an inch.
- Use strong verbs!