

## Senior English 2019/2020 Summer Reading Assignment (AP Lit/APDC Lit):

We will begin the year by studying *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison together. Please read it over the summer and return to school in August with the 10 questions below answered, typed, and printed out as a hard copy. If you will have Dr. Bland for AP/DC Literature, you must also submit an electronic copy after the school year starts ; she will share those details once you are in her class.

For the novel, complete the Summer Reading Novel Questions below. Your responses must be typed. All responses must be your own; please do not collaborate with other students or use online (re)sources.

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### Summer Reading Novel Questions

*Complete these 10 questions for the novel you select.*

With the exception of question 1, answer all questions thoroughly and in complete sentences.

**Responses must be typed. You must return with both a hard and electronic copy, those turned in during Week 1 will earn extra credit, and the official due date is the first class day of Week 2.**

1. Bibliographic information. Follow this format EXACTLY!

Author's last name, first name. Title of Book. Publisher, Earliest copyright date.

**Thaler, E. M. *How to Rule the Universe*. Random House, 1992.**

2. Explain the meaning of the title. (NOTE: If the meaning of your title is obvious, like *Silas Marner*, then give an extended meaning. Explain why it would be appropriate.)

3. What is the most significant conflict in the book? Explain in detail using examples from the work.

4. Identify the protagonist. List three (3) physical characteristics. Identify three (3) personality traits. Provide one example from the story to support each personality trait. (NOTE: Do not try to repeat yourself by saying "kind, nice, and sweet" as personality traits. Each trait must be distinctly different.)

5. Describe the setting in the following terms:

a. Year

b. Season of the year

c. Amount of time the book spans

d. Place where most action occurs

e. Cultural background of characters

6. A. What is the main theme of your book? (A complete statement related to a universal truth, human nature, human experience, etc. For example, "How a person presents themselves to others can reveal their true identity." Do not confuse a topic with a theme. A topic is one word. A theme is a complete statement.)

B. What message do you think the author wants the reader to understand about the theme?

7. A. Write the last sentence of your book. Explain how the progression of the novel leads up to that sentence.

B. Is this sentence appropriate as "the last sentence" of your book? Why or why not? Offer an alternate sentence.

8. Is the novel based upon the workings of the heart (meant to affect you emotionally) or of the mind (meant to make you think)? Explain why using at least three (3) examples from the novel.

9. With which character do you most identify? Why? Explain, using examples from both the character's life and your life. If there are none, explain the differences between yourself and the most opposite character from you using examples from the character's life and your own.

10. How would your book be different if the main character were of the opposite gender? Assume that significant others would change genders as well, if that is a factor. Explain how this change would or would not affect your story.