

Honors Contemporary Literature Summer Reading Expectations

Over the course of the summer, you will read three texts. Two are required; the third may be any one of the titles listed under Faculty Picks.

Required:

Book #1 - *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler

In an America suffering a slow economic and ecological collapse, the adults in Lauren's gated community are clinging to the world as they knew it, but teenaged Lauren is planning for the future.

Book #2 - *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid

The world's population is on the move, and desperate migrants like Nadia and Saeed are swarming through doors in overwhelming numbers. The pair's love is tested as they ponder strategies for survival. Should they stay, or find another door?

ASSIGNMENT

In conjunction with *Parable of the Sower* and *Exit West*, you will complete a *Dialectic Journal* for both texts. Journals will be due on the first day of school.

Dialectic Journal - Directions

- Purchase a spiral bound notebook or composition book OR create a computerized response journal. (You do not need to purchase two separate journals - use the same one for each text.)
- Make a note of the number of pages in your novel.
- Divide your novel into ten (10) equal sections and write a response for every section. (e.g.: 253 pages ... $253/10= 25$. This example shows you should write a response every 25 pages.)
- Draw a vertical line down the middle of the page
- Label the left column TEXT and the right column RESPONSE
- In the TEXT column, copy passages word for word from the novel, including quotations marks and page numbers; you should have TEN.

How do you choose what passages to write down?

Passages become important if

- i. Details in the passage seem important to you.
- ii. You learn something significant about a character.
- iii. You recognize a pattern (recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, descriptions, details, etc.).
- iv. You agree or disagree with something a character says or does.
- v. You find an interesting or potentially significant quotation.
- vi. You notice something important or relevant about the author's writing style.
- vii. You notice effective use of literary devices.
- viii. You think that the passage contributes to or reveals a theme in the novel.

In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS. Your first paper of the quarter will be based on one of these texts. By the end of this assignment, you will have ample evidence with which to work.

Each RESPONSE must be at least 50 words.

Required:

Book #3 – Faculty Picks Selection

Select any ONE of the texts to read from the Faculty Picks list. Note that a journal assignment is not required for your Book #3 selection. However, you must be ready to have a meaningful discussion about the text with the faculty member who recommended it. These discussions will happen online during the first week of classes.

Be prepared to discuss the following:

- Did you like the text? / What resonated? / What challenged?
- What was your favorite part? / Favorite character?
- Any literary or stylistic observations?
- If you were to rate the text out of 5 stars, how would you rate it and why?

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Bridge bridgec@countryday.net or Ms. Williams williamsh@countryday.net.

Faculty Picks List

Below is a shortlist of the texts. See the PDF for a visual and overview of each text.

Mr. Zimmerman's Picks

- *Code of the Woosters* by PG Wodehouse
- *Collected Fictions* by Jorge Luis Borges

Ms. Corrigan's Picks

- *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel* by Jamie Ford
- *Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern
- *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *A Darker Shade of Magic* by V.E. Schwab.

Mr. McGivern's Picks

- *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride
- *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann
- *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart
- *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East* by Scott Anderson

Ms. Back's Picks

- *Built* by Roma Agrawal
- *The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars* by Dava Sobel
- *Math with Bad Drawings: Illuminating the Ideas that Shape Our Reality* by Ben Orlin.
- *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil de Grasse

Dr. Shaull's Picks

- *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K LeGuin
- *Circe* by Madeleine Miller
- *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Dr. Bridge's Picks

- *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen
- *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

Mrs. DiMatteo's Picks

- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* by David Sedaris
- *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward

Ms. Brown's Picks

- *Radium Girls* by Kate Moore
- *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
- *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green
- *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett

Mr. Fossett's Picks

- *Robert E. Lee: A Life* by Alan Guelzo
- Any title in the Inspector Troy series by John Lawton (mysteries with an espionage edge) or in the Joe Wilderness series by the same author (Cold War espionage)
- *Grant* by Ron Chernow
- Any title in the Gabriel Allon series by Daniel Silva (thrillers/spy novels) Any title in the Inspector Troy series by John Lawton (mysteries with an espionage edge) or in the Joe Wilderness series by the same author (Cold War espionage)

Ms. Weinheimer's Picks

- *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion
- *Pachinko* by Min Jee Lee
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie
- *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu
- *Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls* by T. Kira Madden
- *Sing Unburied Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
- *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward
- *Euphoria* by Lily King
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

Dialectical Journal Rubric

	<i>Not yet within expectations</i>	<i>Meets minimal expectations</i>	<i>Fully Meets Expectations</i>	<i>Exceeds Expectations</i>
Content	Contains 3 or less passages (failure to meet quote expectations)	Contains 6-4 passages that may or may not be from various sections of the text.	Contains 9-7 passages (quotes) which have been taken from various sections of the text.	Contains 10 passages (quotes) which have been taken from various sections of the text.
Quote Relevancy / Literary Elements	Passages (quotes) lack any real significance, seem random. Literary analysis is superficial or elementary rather than having depth.	Significance of quotes is not apparent. Analysis hints of knowledge of literary techniques, but lacks a real statement or analysis of text.	Passages (quotes) are significant to the analysis of the story. Valid analysis of a variety of literary elements but lacks depth of knowledge of literary techniques and/or author's craft	Passages (quotes) are well chosen and are of significance. Contains an in-depth analysis of a variety of literary elements and reflects an understanding of author's craft.
Connections/Insight/ Questions	Little or no higher level thinking is evident.	Contains either an insight or connection, but is not significant OR if significant, is not well supported by analysis.	Contains articulate and significant connections, insights, and/or questions, BUT evidence of link to literary analysis is absent.	Contains articulate and significant connections, insights, and questions that are well developed and supported by analysis. Ties connections, insights, and questions to analysis of literary elements.
Mechanics/ MLA Format	Contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that persistently interfere with meaning. Haphazard or no documentation of passage.	Contains an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics. Many errors in punctuation and formatting of parenthetical citations.	Has some errors in grammar, usage and mechanics. Some errors in punctuation and formatting of parenthetical citations.	Is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics. Parenthetical citations are correctly punctuated and formatted.