

## ENGLISH SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

**NOTE: For all classes other than 9th grade, there is an assignment related to the reading. Please refer to this before reading the novel assigned for the course in question.**

### **9th Grade:**

#### **English I and English I Honors:**

*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah

Please read and take notes (annotate) your copy of the book. There will be a reading check on the first day of class.

### **10th Grade:**

#### **English II**

In order to prepare for the first unit of your Sophomore year, which is memoirs/personal essays, please choose one of the following two memoirs and complete the following assignment:

*Educated* by Tara Westover

This is a true story of a young woman raised in rural Idaho and her struggles to redefine herself in the shadow of her parents who spend their time preparing for the End of Days and do not believe or trust in schools, doctors, or the government. She was never given a formal education until she decided to go to college when she was 17 years old. From there, she graduates with honors and travels to England where she gets both her Masters and PhD at the illustrious Cambridge University. At its heart, this is a tale of fierce family loyalty, but also about self-discovery and personal identity as she finds herself far away from her family and the values they taught her.

*Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

A true story by Bryan Stevenson who writes about his experiences as a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a nonprofit law office in Montgomery, Alabama, dedicated to defending the poor, the incarcerated, and the wrongly condemned. *Just Mercy* tells the story of EJI, from the early days with a small staff facing the nation's highest death sentencing and execution rates, through a successful campaign to challenge the cruel practice of sentencing children to die in prison, to revolutionary projects designed to confront Americans with our history of racial injustice. One of EJI's first clients was Walter McMillian, a young Black man who was sentenced to die for the murder of a young white woman, a crime that he did not commit. The case exemplifies

how the death penalty in America is a direct descendant of lynching — a system that treats the rich and guilty better than the poor and innocent.

**Your Evidence Log Assignment:**

- Students should find textual evidence to support the following questions using the log format below. All columns must be completed.
- Your evidence should come from different sections of the book. Do not choose two pieces of evidence from the same page or even chapter. Remember proper citations are last name of author and page number: (Licamele 73).
- This assignment will be collected on the first day of class. You should submit it to turnitin.com AND bring a printed copy to class. Please be sure that you find the quotes on your own and that the “analysis/explanation” column are your own thoughts and words only.

**QUESTIONS: Please find textual evidence to support all three and record in the log below..**

1. How did the author meet obstacles and overcome them? Find two examples of resilience in the text and explain these quotes.
2. Find two lessons that the authors either accepted or rejected from the people in their lives. The analysis for each quote should explain who taught (or attempted to teach) the lesson and how the author reacted/responded.
3. Find two quotes that comment on the author’s journey that you relate to personally. In your analysis of each quote, explain in detail how and why you relate.

**Sample Evidence Log (Make a copy of the log and work on a new document.)**

Topic/Question	Quote <i>(Must be properly copied and cited with author last name and page number)</i>	Explanation and Analysis of Quote
#1 Obstacles		
#1 Obstacles		
#2 Lessons		
#2 Lessons		
#3 Journey		
#3 Journey		

## English II Honors

Choose *one* of the novels listed below.

You will be using your chosen novel to begin learning skills necessary for a larger research assignment in which you will be conducting some research and synthesizing what is discussed in the novel and comparing that to your research of actual events of the time (but **DO NOT** begin any research over the summer!). Both of these novels have commentary on the treatment of certain marginalized groups of the time period.

While reading, students should keep a reading log in a Google Doc that includes the following:

- A reference to any passages from each chapter that are relevant to the specific research questions listed below for your novel.
- Be sure to include a quote and cite page numbers, along with your own commentary and analysis (ie: do not just submit a GoogleDoc full of quotes).
- **DO NOT** just copy and paste evidence from online. Please take the time to use your own words and type up quotes from the text.
- The more you include here, the better you will set yourself up for your research paper.
- Feel free to also annotate your copy of the novel.

\*\*\*\*There may not be something relevant to the research questions in every chapter.

**Do not begin any outside research**—read the book with enjoyment and understanding.

### TEXTS:

#### 1. *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Brontë

Charlotte Brontë's most beloved novel describes the passionate love between the courageous orphan Jane Eyre and her eventual employer: the brilliant, brooding, and domineering Rochester. The loneliness and cruelty of Jane's childhood strengthens her natural independence and spirit, which prove invaluable when she takes a position as a governess at Thornfield Hall with Mr. Rochester. But after she falls in love with her sardonic employer, her discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a heart-wrenching choice. Ever since its publication in 1847, *Jane Eyre* has enthralled every kind of reader, from the most critical and cultivated to the youngest and most unabashedly romantic. It lives as one of the great triumphs of storytelling and as a moving and unforgettable portrayal of a woman's quest for self-respect.

- **Research Question:** What is life like for an orphan and for a governess during this time period? Pay specific attention to Jane's treatment by her relatives and in the girl's school she attends as a young girl, and later as she forms relationships with those both above and below her status as a governess (other servants/employer). Overall, you are looking for economic

and workplace conditions, as well as how those affect Jane's relationships with other characters.

## 2. *Cry the Beloved Country*, Alan Paton

*Cry, the Beloved Country*, regarded by some as the most famous and important novel in South Africa's history, was an immediate worldwide bestseller in 1948. Alan Paton's impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law is a work of searing beauty. *Cry, the Beloved Country* is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

- **Research Question:** What aspects of the novel represent the social conditions (including politics, living conditions, crime and justice, labor and pay, and racial relations) of 1940s South Africa? Look closely at examples of systemic racism, discrimination, the many perspectives Paton brings forward, and perhaps how those perspectives may be limited by his race and experience.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

### English III: American Literature

Students will choose one of the following novels to read & respond to (questions detailed below):

- ***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi** Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One thread of *Homegoing* follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization. The other thread follows Esi and her children into America. From the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Pratt City, Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day, *Homegoing* makes history visceral, and captures, with singular and stunning immediacy, how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation.
- ***Kindred* by Octavia Butler** is a novel about time travel and slave narratives. Dana, a woman from 1976 Los Angeles, narrates her experiences both in her time and traveling back to a plantation in Maryland before the Civil War. During her time in the past, she rescues Rufus, a slave owner's son and her ancestor, and tries to teach him morals while maintaining the status quo of a slave to survive.

Questions for *Homegoing*:

After reading *Homegoing* students will answer **three** of the following questions, each a paragraph in length (so three paragraphs total). Each paragraph response should contain at least two pieces of carefully chosen textual evidence that demonstrate a strong understanding of the novel and its overall themes.

1. Analyze Gyasi's depiction of the African American experience in America, focusing on two examples (supported by textual evidence) from the novel.
2. Discuss the portrayal of the history of Ghana in the novel.
3. Discuss the portrayal of the slave trade and British Colonization.
4. What is the role of customs and family in a person's life? How is this emphasized in *Homegoing* for the reader?
5. How does Gyasi depict the differences in generations in this novel?

All quotations should be properly cited (Gyasi 20) and a correctly formatted Works Cited should be included. Your notes should be printed and also accessible in your Google Drive. We will use these notes for class discussion and for a first essay.

Questions for *Kindred*:

After reading *Kindred* students will answer **three** of the following questions, each a paragraph in length (so three paragraphs total). Each paragraph response should contain at least two pieces of carefully chosen textual evidence that demonstrate a strong understanding of the novel and its overall themes.

1. Analyze how Butler's work demonstrates corruption of power, giving at least two examples (supported by textual evidence) from the novel.
2. How is racism present in each time period? How is it similar in each period, and how might it be different?
3. Consider how Dana views herself within different environments and times. What role does the environment play in one's perception of the self?
4. What effect does Dana's 1st person narration have on our understanding of the novel? Why is it impactful to have a 20th century African American woman detailing the life of slavery in antebellum America?
5. Analyze how Dana, Alice, and Rufus's mother demonstrate the inferior position of women in society, regardless of their social status. To what extent do men in the novel possess the freedom and privilege that women do not?
6. How does Butler's work address the importance of history and its effects on one's personal life in the present and on the society overall? Consider the family connection between Rufus and Dana, as well as the traumatic effects of slavery on Dana and Kevin's life in the 20th century society.

All quotations should be properly cited (Butler 20) and a correctly formatted Works Cited should be included. Your notes should be printed and also accessible in your Google Drive. We will use these notes for class discussion and for a first essay.

## AP Language and Composition

Students will choose one of the following novels to read & respond to (questions detailed below):

- ***The Bingo Palace* by Louise Erdrich** At a crossroads in his life, Lipsha Morrissey is summoned by his grandmother to return to the reservation. There, he falls in love for the very first time--with the beautiful Shawnee Ray, who's already considering a marriage proposal from Lipsha's wealthy entrepreneurial boss, Lyman Lamartine. But when all efforts to win Shwawnee's affections go hopelessly awry, Lipsha seeks out his great-grandmother for a magical solution to his romantic dilemma--on sacred ground where a federally sanctioned bingo palace is slated for construction.
- ***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi** Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One thread of *Homegoing* follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization. The other thread follows Esi and her children into America. From the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Pratt City, Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day, *Homegoing* makes history visceral, and captures, with singular and stunning immediacy, how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation.
- ***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald** is a novel told by Nick Carraway, a midwestern man who moves to West Egg, adjusting to a faster-paced life and watching how the wealthy live. He describes Jay Gatsby, his neighbor, who hopes to reunite with a former love, Daisy Buchanan, as if they were still in the relationship they had 5 years prior. Through this, Nick portrays illusions and deceptions that end in destruction.

Your observations and ideas should be supported by textual evidence from the novel, which should be accompanied by in-text citations. You should also have a Works Cited at the end. Your notes should be printed and also accessible in your GoogleDrive, and you should have some observations for each chapter. We will use these notes for class discussion and for an in-class essay.

*The Bingo Palace* by Louise Erdrich, keep a reading journal in which you take notes on **two** of the following ideas as they appear throughout the novel:

- The point being made about identity, particularly for Native Americans
- The struggle with navigating Western life and life on a reservation
- The discussion being made about gambling/addiction
- The topic of family and relationships between family members.

*Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

As you read *Homegoing*, keep a reading journal in which you take notes on **two** of the the following topics:

- The history of Ghana and the depiction of the slave trade with British Colonization
- The African American experience in America
- The role of customs and family and any generational changes
- The importance of differences between customs and generations

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, keep a reading journal in which you take notes on **two** of the following ideas as they appear throughout the novel:

- The portrayal of the American Dream or lack thereof
- The portrayal of women (expectations as a married woman, objectification, misogyny, gender norms) coinciding with traditional ones or breaking away from them
- The point being made judging others
- The discussion of socio economic status

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

### Fantastic Realities

#### *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury

In his 1953 dystopian novel *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury presents a future society where books are banned, individuality is a crime, and superficial entertainment consumes the citizens' daily lives. The novel not only prophetically predicts multiple technological advancements that did not exist at the time Bradbury wrote it, but also comments on the troubling tendencies of a modern society that Bradbury noticed at the time and wanted to warn the readers about. More than sixty years later the questions this novel raises are as relevant as ever.

After reading *Fahrenheit 451* please answer **three** of the following questions, each a paragraph in length (so three paragraphs total). Each paragraph response should contain at least two pieces of carefully chosen textual evidence that demonstrate a strong understanding of the novel and its overall themes.

1. What correct predictions about our modern society did Bradbury make in the novel? Consider technological devices, types of entertainment, relationships, values described in the novel.
2. How does Bradbury's novel address the role of media in society? What is the danger of propaganda, censorship, and mindless entertainment, and how does it affect the citizens' consciousness and morals? Consider Mildred and her friends, Montag himself, Captain Beatty, Clarisse, and other characters.

3. What evidence suggests that Guy Montag lives in a dystopian society? Consider its institutions (ex. schools), values, ways to spend free time, jobs, role of nature, and of course attitude toward reading books.
4. How does the author emphasize the importance of literature in the novel? Consider the reasons Montag's society got rid of books and the consequences of that misguided decision. What connection does the author make between society's morals and reading?
5. Analyze how the novel addresses the relationship between an individual and society. Consider the role the firefighters play in the novel, the rights and freedom of the citizens, as portrayed by Clarisse, Faber, Montag, and other characters.

## Multicultural Literature

Students will read and annotate all 4 of the following stories:

["A Flawless Silence" by Yiyun Li](#)

["The Red Convertible" by Louise Erdrich](#)

["Woman Hollering Creek" by Sandra Cisneros](#)

["Recitatif" by Toni Morrison](#)

After reading the stories, answer **three** of the following questions, **utilizing all four stories** across your answers (ie: you can't just use the same one or two stories to answer all questions). Responses should be a paragraph in length, and you should use two pieces of textual evidence from the stories to support your answers. Any evidence used needs to be correctly cited within your paragraph responses, which should follow MLA rules: (Erdrich 230).

1. Discuss the idea of marriage, comparing/contrasting how marriage is portrayed in two stories, to discuss how cultural traditions can affect and inform marital relationships.
2. Discuss Li's point about silence and how that differs from the idea of "having the last say." How can remaining silent, at times, make more of an impact?
3. Discuss how authors depict characters' daily lives and customs from two stories. How do the details provided give readers insight into different cultures?
4. Analyze how race relations are portrayed in one or two stories, and how shared experiences do not necessarily impede racism.

This assignment is due the first day of class on Turnitin. You will be provided with enrollment information for the course. These stories will be discussed in class, so your responses will help you prepare for those, as well as the first unit assessment.

## AP Literature

Students will choose one of the following novels to read & respond to (questions are detailed below):



- ***Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler (1993)**
  - This dystopian novel follows Lauren Olamina, a young woman living in southern California during the mid-2020s. Life is dangerous, as increased global warming has led to a scarcity of water and food, along with social and political unrest. Due to circumstances beyond her control, Lauren is forced to leave her home and journey northwards, finding safety and friendship in unexpected places along the way. (NB: this book does have a sequel, *Parable of the Talents*, which you do not need to read)
  
- ***Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2003)**
  - This contemporary novel centers on Kambili, a Nigerian teenager, who lives under the thumb of her oppressive father. But when she and her brother Jaja go visit their aunt and cousins, her life suddenly changes as she learns more about her culture and religion, her family's problems, and herself.
  
- ***The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab (2020)**
  - This fantasy novel centers around Adeline, a young woman living in early 18th century France who makes a deal with the devil in order to achieve immortality. But, as with all Faustian bargains, this one has a catch: she will live forever, but be forgotten by everyone she meets. After 300 years of being forgotten, however, Addie finally meets someone who remembers her...

### Questions for *Parable of the Sower*

Answer each question in a well-written and properly structured paragraph (so three paragraphs total). You must include at least two pieces of textual evidence in each response.

1. How does Lauren's relationship with her father impact her understanding of love, family, and survival? Be specific in your reasoning.
2. What does Lauren learn through her journey through California, away from her home and towards safety? Give at least two examples, both supported by textual evidence, in your response.
3. How does Lauren's relationship with her fellow travelers demonstrate the notion of sacrifice? Be specific, giving at least two examples, and make sure to consider her status as a 'sharer' in your response.

### Questions for *Purple Hibiscus*

Answer each question in a well-written and properly structured paragraph (so three paragraphs total). You must include at least two pieces of textual evidence in each response.

1. How does Kambili's relationship with her brother Jaja demonstrate the notion of sacrifice? Give at least two examples, both supported by textual evidence, in your response.
2. Demonstrate the impact Auntie Ifeoma has on Kambili's character. Be sure to give specific examples, from varied points in the novel in your response.
3. How does Kambili's relationship with Father Amadi impact her character growth? Give at least two examples, both supported by textual evidence, in your response.

### Questions for *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*

Answer each question in a well-written and properly structured paragraph (so three paragraphs total). You must include at least two pieces of textual evidence in each response.

1. In what ways is the relationship between Addie and Luc a complex one? Try to consider *how* it is complex, and how each individual views the relationship.
2. How does the relationship between Addie and Henry Strauss demonstrate the notion of sacrifice? What does each sacrifice for, or because of, the other?
3. Analyze the importance of Addie's relationship with art (of various forms and mediums - poetry, painting, music, etc). Focus on one or two pieces from the novel, detailing the significance of that art to her. How does such art shape her own development?

**Your answers should be submitted to turnitin.com by our first class (an email with the course enrollment key will be sent in August), and should also be accessible in your GoogleDrive. We will use these responses for class discussion and for an in-class essay.**

**All quotations must be properly cited (Adichie 12), and a correctly formatted Works Cited must be included.**

### **Short Fiction (dual-enrollment)**

Students will be given a packet of short stories to read (provided in GoogleDoc and PDF format), featuring the work of various authors and genres that we will study this semester. You are required to read all stories included in the packet, which are as follows:

- "Roger Malvin's Burial" by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- "Eveline" by James Joyce
- "The Fall of the House of Usher" by Edgar Allan Poe
- "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid
- "The Specialist's Hat" by Kelly Link
- "Bernice Bobs Her Hair" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

GoogleDoc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j0aB7ItWfNrhY-LX0SgFnldJkMe8b33qtBu83PqHoR0/edit?usp=sharing>

PDF:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iitWN8k25jIkzpOJGWScyJcOpAkX3m1S/view?usp=sharing>

After reading all stories, answer **three** of the following questions, using unique stories for each answer (ie: no work should be used twice). Each answer should be one paragraph in length (so you'll submit three paragraphs total) and should include at least two pieces of textual evidence per paragraph to support your ideas.

1. Pick one of the short stories above. In a well-written paragraph, demonstrate how imagery adds to the reader's understanding of the work and its overall meaning. Be sure to use specific, quoted evidence in your analysis.
2. Pick one of the short stories above. In a well-written paragraph, analyze how the author uses uncertainty and/or supernatural aspects to increase the suspense felt by the reader.
3. Pick one of the short stories above. In a well-written paragraph, explain how characterization helps demonstrate the gender roles and expectations of the society depicted in the story.

4. Pick one of the short stories above. In a well-written paragraph, explain how symbolism is utilized in the story and how a symbol (or symbols) contributes to the overall meaning of the story.
5. Pick one of the short stories above. In a well-written paragraph, analyze how the interplay between past and present contributes to the reader's understanding of the story and its characters. You may consider such ideas as a character's past actions affect their present decisions/values, how past memories/relationships impact their present decisions, or how characters from different times interact (either literally or metaphorically) within the story.

**Your answers should be submitted to turnitin.com by our first class (an email with the course enrollment key will be sent in August), and should also be accessible in your GoogleDrive. All quotes should be properly cited using the author's last name and the page number in the packet, ie: (Link 70). We will use these stories and your responses for class discussion and for our first unit assessment.**