

# Trousdale County High School

## English III - Summer Reading

### *Metamorphosis* by Frank Kafka

#### **Assignment – Due 1<sup>st</sup> Week of School**

**Students are to write a literary critique using the structured outline below.**

#### **Paragraph I: Summary**

Provide a brief synopsis of the book to better acquaint your reader with the work. Brief is the key word! If your summary comprises half of the essay, your response will feel unbalanced. It is important to provide an adequate amount of information without giving too much away. Begin your critique with a great quote from the book or some interesting fact. Also include the book's title, author, publication date, and any other information that might be helpful to the reader.

#### **Paragraph II: Identify**

Identify the main theme of the work. What is the book about? What is the central idea or message the author is trying to convey? What is the major lesson to be learned? Once you have identified the major theme/s of the work, consider whether or not you believe it was conveyed effectively. Was this story a good vehicle to transfer this theme to you as the reader? Why or why not? Use specific evidence from the text to support your argument.

#### **Paragraph III: Criticism**

Be the critic. Beyond the theme, was this a good story? What did you like about it? Consider the general plot, characters, writer's style and voice, narration, subject matter, etc. What was the author able to do effectively? What did you dislike about it? How did the author fall short of your hopes and expectations? What did they do poorly? How might the book be better improved?

#### **Paragraph IV: Consideration**

How has this book changed your opinion of the world around you? Consider how this work has altered your perceptions of the topic discussed in the book. Did your opinion on the subject change at all from start to finish? How would you have felt about it before reading the novel? How do you feel now? What specific details from the work compelled this change? If there has been no change, explain what the author could or should have done to better do so.

#### **Paragraph V: Recommendation**

What is your recommendation regarding this work? Would you encourage a friend or classmate to read it? Would you tell them to avoid it at all cost? Provide some closure to your response with final thoughts on the work. Restate the title, author, and major theme/s of the work, as well as appropriate (to your overall opinion) description of the work. Provide your recommendation, for or against the work. Restate the work's ability, or lack thereof, to compel the reader and creatively find some way to end your critique.

#### **Example of Paragraph V:**

*Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck is a gripping work that beautifully depicts the importance of dreams and friendship in society. I would highly recommend this work to any reader looking to explore such topics. Through its simple style and structure it is able to encompass themes much larger than its size and has changed my view on the necessity for true friendship. As George says to Lenny, "Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong no place. . . . With us it ain't like that. We got a future."