

Senior Seminar: English 4 and Honors English 4
Summer Reading Assignment: 2023-2024
The Nightingale Seminar Discussion

OVERVIEW: For your summer reading assignment for the 2023-2024 school year, you will receive a grade based on your participation in a group seminar discussion about Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*. A seminar discussion is a student-run, graded discussion, the success of which depends on your preparation and participation. Your grade will reflect the frequency and quality of your comments, the extent to which you listen and respond appropriately to your peers, and your ability to arrive prepared for discussion with the appropriate texts and materials.

GROUP MODERATOR: Before the seminar, the class will appoint a group moderator who will be responsible for the following:

- calling on students
- keeping track of who speaks and who does not so that all students have a chance to enter the conversation and that a select few do not dominate the discussion
- inviting reluctant students in a non-threatening manner
- deciding when it is appropriate to change the topic
- contributing to the discussion

SEMINAR PARTICIPANT:

1. You are responsible for:
 - a. sharing your observations, opinions, questions, and insights
 - b. supporting your ideas with textual evidence
 - c. offering insightful and original observations and analysis
 - d. asking important, thought-provoking questions
 - e. demonstrating the qualities of an active listener: looking at others while they are speaking, taking notes, answering questions, etc.
 - f. making connections to your classmates' ideas; agreeing and elaborating with added reasoning or support; disagreeing constructively with supporting evidence
 - g. always treating the ideas and feelings of others with respect and courtesy
 - h. arriving prepared with the appropriate materials
 - i. demonstrating careful completion of the assigned task

2. Please do not:
 - a. interrupt each other
 - b. talk while someone else is talking
 - c. change topics at inappropriate times
 - d. enter the conversation merely to repeat what someone else has already said
 - e. offer vague and overly general ideas; if you are unprepared, try to enter the conversation in a productive way

Teacher Role in the Seminar:

Your teacher will sit in the circle and may or may not contribute as a member of the group. She will be evaluating the overall frequency and quality of your comments.

SEMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Complete the handout titled “*The Nightingale*: Seminar Reading Journal” before arriving to class on the day of the seminar. It is **strongly** recommended that you complete this over the summer; do not wait until the start of the school year. Your reading journal must be typed in MLA format. You are welcome to create your own document; do not feel as though you must use the exact template attached to this assignment. The overall discussion will focus on your analysis of *The Nightingale*. **You may not consult outside sources (we will be able to tell if you do!).** In general, you should always make text to text, text to self, and text to world connections in your analysis. Additionally, consider the following analytical tools as you complete your reading journal:

- Symbolism
- Archetype
- Metaphor
- Irony
- Characterization
- Historical significance
- Allusions
- Imagery
- Foreshadowing
- Theme

REFLECTION: After the seminar, you will write a one-page reflection (typed in MLA format) in which you respond to **all** of the following questions:

- Describe your experience with the discussion of this novel in the seminar, including your role as a member of the group and (if applicable) as group moderator. What were some experiences that were worthwhile, challenging, etc.?
- What were your strengths as a participant in the seminar (frequency and quality of comments, listening and responding, preparedness, etc.)? Explain with specific examples.
- What were some areas in which you could improve in a seminar discussion? Explain with specific examples.
- What are your goals for the next seminar (if we have another one later in the year)?
- What grade do you feel you deserve and why?

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK: Your teacher will provide specific instructions in class.

NOTE: Additional work will be assigned in the fall for choice books. Please read and annotate these books over the summer and be prepared to discuss and/or write about them.

Happy Reading!

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Nightingale: Seminar Reading Journal

Quote from <i>The Nightingale</i> :	Analytical Tool:	Analysis:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Identify a passage from the novel that you do not fully understand and explain why.

QUESTIONS: Write three ponderable questions to pose to the class about anything in the novel. These should be thought-provoking questions that will further enhance the depth of the discussion.

1.

2.

3.