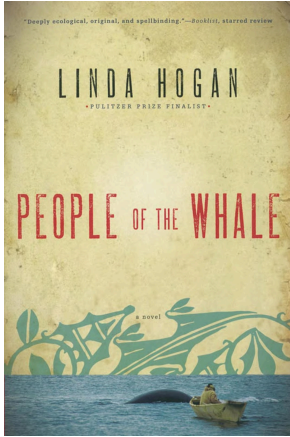


# Riviera Schools

## 2024 REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR AP Literature and Composition



### *People of the Whale* by Linda Hogan

Raised in a remote seaside village, Thomas Witka Just marries Ruth, his beloved since infancy. But an ill-fated decision to fight in Vietnam changes his life forever: cut off from his Native American community, he fathers a child with another woman. When he returns home a hero, he finds his tribe in conflict over the decision to hunt a whale, both a symbol of spirituality and rebirth and a means of survival. In the end, he reconciles his two existences, only to see tragedy befall the son he left behind.

Linda Hogan was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *Mean Spirit*. Her other honors include an American Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She lives in Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

Excerpted from: <http://www.amazon.com>

You must have a **hard copy** as annotations are required. **The assignment must be turned in manually in the form of a composition book or digitally as an ongoing Google Doc by the first day of class.**

#### **Remember:**

- Always read over your finished work!
- Type your responses.
- Double space.
- Times New Roman or Arial – Font –Size 12
- Send your work through spell and grammar check.
- Put heading on top left of your paper →
- Do not “share” any work with your peers.

John Doe Teacher Name (leave blank for now) AP English Literature and Composition 19 August 2024
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For Linda Hogan's "People of the Whale," you are to maintain a reflective reader's journal. The journal will require regular entries with ample latitude as to the basis for your commentary. A good benchmark is to complete a journal entry every 20-25 pages.

**Annotations:** While reading the selected novel, students are highly encouraged to highlight and make notes in the margins of the text.

**What kinds of things could you annotate?**

- words and phrases that stand out to you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key decisions characters make
- sections that are confusing for you
- questions that pop into your head as you are reading
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to other texts, films, t.v. shows
- connections you make to your personal life or to the lives of others
- symbols, themes, or topics
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots) used
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

**Directions for Reader's Journal:**

While reading the novel, students are expected to first create at least 8-10 journal entries that include their feelings about the main events, characters and themes being developed in the narrative. It is helpful to include quotations or excerpts from the text and commentary for each. These quotations or excerpts should come from both the rising and falling action of the novel. The commentary for each quotation or excerpt should explain and comment on the meaning or importance and not merely paraphrase or summarize the text. Below are several points of emphasis within reader's journal entries. It is acceptable to use first person in the more subjective aspects of your reader responses.

**Form, Structure, and Plot:** What is happening? Choose quotations/excerpts on the chronology of the plot: opening situation, complicating incident(s), main events in the rising action, climax, outcome. How much time is covered? If the action is framed as a flashback, explain. Choose quotations/excerpts involved in forms, such as dream sequences, stream of consciousness narrative, parallel events, significant patterns of foreshadowing, or anything else interesting, along with commentary explaining why this plot or structural device is important.

**Character:** Choose quotations/excerpts about central characters, such as personality, function in the novel, motivations, or flaws.

**Setting:** Choose quotations/excerpts that show where (continent, region, state, house, room) and when (year, month, time of day) the novel occurs. Choose quotations/excerpts that show how the setting affects the plot or ideas of the novel. What mood is created by the setting?

**Themes:** Choose quotations/excerpts that identify major themes in the novel. What moral and ethical questions are being explored in the novel, and how are they resolved? What is the author saying about life, about mankind, or about nature? What is a major existential lesson to take from the events in the story?

**Imagery:** Choose quotations/excerpts that appeal to one or more of the five senses. What is the effect? Look also for recurring images or motifs (light/darkness, colors, clothing, odors, sounds, etc.). How are these images or motifs used?

**Symbolism:** Choose quotations/excerpts that use an image to suggest complex or multiple meanings. When something is used metaphorically, like a conch shell to represent authority, it becomes a symbol. Choose quotations/excerpts in the novel that use these symbols. What is the effect of the symbol? Are there patterns? Do these symbols advance one or more themes?

**Type and impact of Figurative Language:** Choose quotations/excerpts to identify effective examples of these devices: metaphors, similes, personification, and/or allusion. An allusion is a reference to someone or something known from history, literature, religion, politics, sports, science or some other branch of culture.

**Intertextual relationships:** Connections you make between “People of the Whale” and “Kite Runner” or with other novels you have read

**In addition to your reader’s journal:**

Then either after or between these entries, students are to compose more targeted journal responses. In so doing, provide a separate entry for each of the following story-based elements:

- (1) How have your impressions of the main character(s) changed over the course of the novel? Did such character(s) become easier to root for, more challenging or simply further removed from the main action than expected? Explain your reasoning.

- (2) What places have you visited, learned about in film(s) and/or courses, or heard about from your parents that compare with the various settings in the novel? How does the story either match or differ from the perceptions you have?
  
- (3) Are there aspects of the story that you wish the author developed more, less or differently? This could include characters that could be added to the plot to give it more realism, depth or complexity. Explain your reasoning.
  
- (4) How has the author's style of writing enhanced your reading of the story? In describing the stylistic elements used by the author, be sure to use at least three different literary devices such as tone, figurative language, irony, symbolism, extended metaphors, etc, which best exemplify how the manner in which the story has been written enhances the overall substance of the novel.