

AP Literature and Composition
Summer Assignment (2024)
Mr. Marino

You will read *All the Pretty Horses*, by Cormac McCarthy, and write a thesis-driven analytical essay.

Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses* begins with the death of John Grady Cole's grandfather. Early in the novel, we learn that Cole's father is terminally ill. In fact, Cole is forced to confront the prospect of death (his own or people close to him) throughout the story. Please compare these first two encounters with death with at least two others from later in the novel. How do the circumstances differ? How does Cole react to these brushes with death? What larger ideas or themes is McCarthy exploring through these scenes.

Please be sure to develop your discussion with a range of specific details from throughout the novel. Use these scenes to communicate your larger understanding of the character, the setting, and the related themes.

Your thesis needs to make an argument that is not an obvious or self-evident fact. Your thesis should require substantial defense and analysis of textual details.

Your essay needs to be:

- 4-5 pages long (at least the bottom of the fourth page)
- Times New Roman
- 12 point font
- Double spaced
- 1 inch margins (in other words, don't change the default setting)

Also:

- **Do not** include a title page; put your name at the top of the page and include a centered title.
- Your title should have something to do with your thesis. **Do not** title your essay "Summer Assignment," "English Essay," or any other bland/nondescript title.
- **Do not** use literary criticism or the internet—I want these ideas to come from you. (And, obviously, do not plagiarize or use AI. If you do, you will not receive credit for this assignment.)
- Use literary devices wherever applicable.
- Close reading and textual quotation will be rewarded. Cite quotes by page number.

Please contact me with questions, but do not wait until late in the summer.

Email: pmarino@cccsd.org

Phone extension: 5502 (If you leave a message it will be forwarded to my email.)

The paper is due on our second class meeting.

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Essay Rubric

- **Thesis and Development** (30 points)
 - ✓ The topic is narrow and manageable
 - ✓ Details are relevant, accurate, and reinforce thesis
 - ✓ The argument is perceptive and insightful
- **Voice and Word Choice** (15 points)
 - ✓ Tone is interesting and appropriate for audience and purpose
 - ✓ Author's presence is evident and purposeful
 - ✓ Words and phrases are striking and memorable
 - ✓ Meaning is clear
 - ✓ Language is natural, effective, and appropriate
 - ✓ Verbs are lively, nouns precise, modifiers effective
- **Sentence Construction** (20 points)
 - ✓ Sentences vary in length and structure
 - ✓ Writing has cadence
 - ✓ Construction enhances meaning
- **Organization** (15 points)
 - ✓ Thoughtful transitions
 - ✓ Sequencing is logical and effective
 - ✓ Pacing is well controlled and purposeful
- **Conventions** (20 points)
 - ✓ Spelling is essentially error free
 - ✓ Punctuation is accurate, creative, and effective
 - ✓ Grammar is correct and enhances text