

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment

There are several purposes for having a summer reading assignment. One is simply to start us all on common ground. It gives us something to talk about right away to help us build our learning community. Two, it exposes you to a type of book that you might not normally choose for yourself, which will broaden your literature knowledge. Finally, it will give you something else to do besides completely zone out and watch television all summer long. **These readings/assignments are not due until the second week of school. You can choose to wait until then to start them, or use the summer to get a head start.**

Read and annotate the following novel (make notes in the margins, highlight, underline. These notes will come in handy when you are tested on your knowledge of the characters, plot, themes, symbolism, etc.)

1. *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck-Test over book the second week of school.
2. Next, for *The Grapes of Wrath*, write a 750-1,000 word paper which is due the second week of school.

Essay Prompt: As you read *The Grapes of Wrath*, you will notice that Steinbeck uses two different narrative structures in alternating chapters. Half of the chapters follow a traditional story structure account of the Joad family's adventure and trials (all even numbered chapters). However, the other half of the chapters follow a contrapuntal structure: short multiple-perspective chapters about themes, background, or migrant farmer issues (all odd numbered chapters). These chapters are slower paced, almost poetic, full of symbolism and imagery. Critics call these intercalary chapters. Steinbeck called these "pace changers" and included them so that he could "introduce things on an intellectual level which (the reader) could not receive unless he were opened up (first)."

You will write an intercalary chapter for the novel. You have two options for writing this chapter:

1. Write a new intercalary chapter for *The Grapes of Wrath*. Pick a topic or focus that Steinbeck did not use. It might help to look up some information about the Depression online to get ideas for topics. Use 3rd person point of view (limited or omniscient).

Or

2. Write an intercalary chapter for your life, if your life were a story. Pick a focus that illuminates or goes deeper into some aspect of your life story, specifically at a time or a journey such as the Joad's faced. Do not use a traditional narrative structure. Emulate Steinbeck's pace-changing structure. Use 3rd person omniscient point of view.

Your essay will be scored on the following:

1. MLA format/Criteria: 750-1,000 words, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point type, one inch margins all around, submitted to turnitin.com (after school starts)
2. Style/Voice: emulates Steinbeck's level of language, use of language including symbolism, figurative language, and poetic detail
3. Structure: emulates Steinbeck's organization, perspective, pacing, and type of focus
4. Ideas/Creativity: goes beyond the obvious, conveys a significant message or moment in time, descriptive, interesting, creative
5. AP Level Composition: well-articulated ideas, vivid word choice, fluent and varied sentence structure, correctly used punctuation, well-edited for spelling and usage

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