

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER READING

Journal/Analysis Guide/Poem Reflection

2019

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Feel free to email me with questions!

These pieces are due the first week of regular classes,
not during
“Boot Camp” in August.

Introduction

These sheets will guide you through the summer assignments which involves reading **three** texts, **one** poem and creating **nine** journals. All the journals you create will be evaluated when you return in the fall. They will be major grades in the first trimester. The poem, “The Second Coming” -W. B. Yeats is the inspiration for title of *Things Fall Apart*. The poem and instructions for the journal are also included in this packet.

The Readings:

1. *How to Read Literature like a Professor*- Thomas C. Foster

Obtain a copy of the book and follow the instructions below. **THIS BOOK SHOULD BE READ FIRST! It will help you deepen your analysis of the summer reading.** This text will be used as a guide throughout the year as well as for summer reading. There are two different editions floating around so check below which chapter titles you are to read.

2. *Things Fall Apart* - Chinua Achebe & *Purple Hibiscus*- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

To practice deep reading and analysis, you will carefully read and annotate two novels that deal with similar motifs. In the first few weeks of the year, we will delve even more deeply into these vital texts which are integral to our AP curriculum.

Overall Guidelines for the Project

- Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* first.
- It matters not which novel you read first -- just reflect how these two might be tied together as you read.
- As you read and annotate these two novels, do not give into the temptation to read outside sources, such as critical analyses or Spark type notes. Doing so, will defeat the purpose of the entire exercise. If you do, however, you must cite their insights if you refer to them in your journals.
- **AS THE JOURNALS WILL BE CHECKED FOR ORIGINALITY AND CITATIONS , COPYING OTHERS' INSIGHTS WITHOUT CITATION WILL ALSO LEAD YOU TO BE GUILTY OF PLAGIARISM, AN OFFENSE THAT REMAINS ON YOUR PERMANENT RECORD.**
- Evaluation Criteria for the Journals
 - *Accuracy of References
 - *Depth of Insight
 - *Personal Connection
 - *Minimal Synopsis – on its own
 - *Standard English
 - *Clarity of Expression.
- You will write a total of nine (9) journals.

The Assignments

How To Read Literature Like A Professor -- Two Journals

This text is used throughout the country as an unofficial handbook for analyzing motifs, symbols, and themes in literature. **AS STATED ABOVE, READ THIS BOOK FIRST!!**

We will refer to it throughout the year. You will read and annotate a selection of chapters now and later we will return to apply the concepts presented in several others.

1. **Reading:** In preparation for writing the journals, **read and annotate the following chapters:** “The Introduction,” “Every Trip is a Quest,” “Nice to Eat with You,” “Nice to Eat You,” “When in Doubt, It’s From Shakespeare,” “Or the Bible,” “Hanseldee and Greteldum,” “It’s Greek to Me,” “It’s More than Rain and Snow,” “It’s All Political,” “Yes, She’s a Christ Figure, too,” “Flights of Fancy,” “It’s all about Sex,” “Except Sex,” “Geography Matters,” “So Does Season,” “It’s Never Just about Heart Disease,” “And Rarely Just Illness,” “Don’t Read with Your Eyes,” “Is He Serious?”
2. **Two Journals:** Choose **two (2) chapters** and write a **two-part reflection for each chapter. Part one:** using your annotations, summarize the chapter, discussing how the author organizes it and what examples he chooses to include to prove his thesis. **Part two:** write a one page response comparing a text you have read in the past with the material presented in the chapter. Each chapter reflection should be **two-three (2-3) pages.**

Literature Journals for Things Fall Apart & Purple Hibiscus --

Four Journals

General Instructions:

For each text, you need to write extensive journals. **Do not summarize plot.** You are encouraged to use “I” in these journals, but don’t just stay focused on emotional reactions alone; try to speculate what each writer might be saying or doing as the pieces progress. These are your personal and critical perceptions – do not make them sound like they are written by an editor from *Spark’s Notes* or a literary scholar. Do use a varied vocabulary and standard English, however.

Types of Journals: You must do two journals for each book: four journals total. For each novel, you must do “Journal One” and choose one of the other two journals.

- **Required For Both Novels: “Journal One”** which should be two-three pages. **In this journal you** will make connections, both personal and intellectual, within this particular piece of literature -- characters, settings, motifs **and** as it compares to other literature or even film you have previously read/seen.****

**** **The journal for the piece which you read second should include reflections as to how the two texts deal with similar motifs.**

Choose one of these below for your second journal; you may repeat the same one for both books.

- **“Journal Two”** which should be two-three pages, should reflect your questions, personal reactions, reflections on motifs, themes, techniques and how the novelist uses them to further his/her piece. This can be about a particular part of the book or the text as a whole.

OR

- **“Journal Three”** is a dialectical journal You must choose one passage in the novel. You will copy out the passage, giving the page #. You will then reflect how the passage is significant to the book. These reflections should be at least a page and a half in length.

What Are Dialectical Journals?

Dialectical journals refer to a specific point in the book (a narrative excerpt or particular quotes), indicating the page and/or paragraph number, and writing a response to this excerpt.

Here are some suggestions for what to do in your “Response”

- Explore meaningful figurative language including metaphors, symbols, similes, allusions, etc.
- Commentary on the significance of a particular aspect in the prose.
- Quote lines you enjoyed reading and comment on them, or lines that you disliked or found confusing.
- Describe your reactions to a character, action, or idea you confronted in your reading.
- Talk about the relationships characters have to one another, quoting specific words or phrases to give evidence for your opinion.
- Ask questions about the text. Has this caused you confusion? Why?

Synthesis Of Texts--Two Journals

These journals tie *How to Read Literature like a Professor* to *Things Fall Apart* and to *Purple Hibiscus*.

- Choose two additional chapters you have read and annotated in *How to Read Literature like a Professor*.
- Apply the themes and motifs presented in one chapter to *Things Fall Apart* and write a journal.
- Apply the themes and motifs presented a different chapter to *Purple Hibiscus* and write a journal.
- Write at least a full page journal for each book explaining the connections.

Poem Analysis-- One Journal

Do this assignment after you annotate and read *Things Fall Apart*.

“The Second Coming” W. B. Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

Background

William Butler Yeats believed that history comes in cycles that are actually gyres -- tight and focused at first, and as the years go on, the gyres widen, and chaos and corruption take over. Then something dramatic occurs, ie, the birth of Jesus, the Renaissance, to start a new historical period. It is from this poem that the title of *Things Fall Apart* comes.

Instructions

Please read it, take notes, and speculate in a page journal what William Butler Yeats is saying and why Achebe would have chosen it as inspiration for his title.