

El Paso Country Day School - Summer 2009 Reading List: Grades 9- 12

These exercises will be collected during the first week of school.
These exercises will constitute a portion of the first quarter grades.

<u>RISING SENIORS (Read 3):</u> <i>Heart of Darkness</i> - Joseph Conrad <i>House of the Spirits</i> - Isabella allende <i>Clan of the Cave Bear</i> – Jean M. Avel	<u>RISING JUNIORS(Read 3):</u> <i>The Jungle</i> - Upton Sinclar <i>Chronicles of Amber</i> – Roger Zelanzny <i>Invisible Man</i> – Ralph Ellison
<u>RISING SOPHOMORES (Read 3):</u> <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> (1 st book) - C. S. Lewis <i>Cat's Cradle</i> – Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. <i>Siddartha</i> – Herman Hesse	<u>RISING FRESHMEN (Read 3):</u> <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> (1 st book) - C. S. Lewis <i>Cat's Cradle</i> – Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. <i>The Chosen</i> – Chaim Potok
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You need to choose **ONE** essay from the list per novel read. You may **NOT** choose the same essay for more than one novel. Your essay should include paragraphs of introduction and conclusion. The body of your essay will be 2 – 5 well-developed paragraphs that support the point of view you present in your introduction. Refer to characters and events in the present tense, and *use summarizing only as necessary to make your point*. Check your essays several times before submitting them.

The summer reading book report grades for juniors and seniors will be credited to students' history courses.

1. In every work of memorable literature, the main character undergoes some type of conflict. Identify the two opposing forces with which your protagonist struggles and explain how he or she either overcomes them or is defeated by them.
2. "Evil is always man's doing, yet it is never his destiny. The power of choice makes evil possible, but it is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having." ~ C.S. Lewis
Consider the literary works you have read this summer. Select one that explores this idea of evil in man being a choice, not a destiny. Write a well-organized essay in which you explore the choices made by a significant character and how those choices help shape the theme(s) of the literary work.
3. Novels, plays, and short stories often depict characters caught between colliding cultures-national, regional, religious, ethnic, institutional. Such collisions can call a character's sense of self-identity into question. Select a literary work in which a character responds to such a cultural collision. Then, write a well-organized response in which you describe the character's response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.
4. Choose a character from the summer list and write an essay in which you a) briefly describe the standards of the fictional society in which the character exists and b) show how the character is affected by and responds to those standards. In your essay, do not merely summarize the plot.
5. Choose one of your summer reading novels in which a specific inanimate object (e.g., a seashell, a handkerchief, a painting) is important, and write an essay in which you show how two or three of the purposes the objects serves are related to one another.
6. The central character in a novel, play, or short story often encounters a moral, physical, or psychological danger. From one of your novels, select a situation (episode or scene) in which the central character encounters danger. In a unified essay, describe:
 - a. How the situation reveals the character
 - b. How the revelation of character in this situation related to the structure and meaning of the work.

AVOID PLOT SUMMARY