

English 3 Advanced Placement

Summer Reading Assignment - 2009

The Crucible - Arthur Miller

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - Mark Twain

The Catcher in the Rye - JD Salinger

Packet of three nonfiction readings

"Reading Critically" - Instructions on Annotating and Close Reading

Read all assignments closely and thoroughly. Type your responses to all questions; double space and use 12 font. Have a cover page for your work and follow the rules of standard written English.

The grade you earn for this project will be determined by its timely submission; its completeness and its content's accuracy and quality (both thoughts and writing). It is worth 100 points.

This Summer Reading Project is DUE our first day of class in August. No exceptions for computer failings, lost or forgotten work, etc., will be accepted as reasons for not having your project on the day it is due.

Save your work for submission to Turnitin.com.

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1. The Crucible is Arthur Miller's dramatic portrayal of Puritan society during the Salem Witch Trials in 1692. It is a compelling play that reveals the best and worst of human nature. One purpose of your reading The Crucible is to provide you with a background of the Puritan culture that you will visit again when we read Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel, The Scarlet Letter, in the fall.

Miller wrote this play in the early 1950s, a time known politically as "The McCarthy Era" in American history.

Assignment:

Read the play. Then research "McCarthyism" and write a response (one to three paragraphs) that discusses your understanding as to why Miller wrote The Crucible when he did. What message did Miller want to convey to the American audience through his play? Include an explanation and summary of "McCarthyism" in your response.

Write a second response that discusses the roles of two of the following human flaws that are present in the play: fear, greed, ignorance, pride.

Describe the characters and situations that illustrate their presence in

The Crucible. Use specific examples and support them with quotes. Do not tell the whole story. Provide some context, but focus on specific circumstances.

## 2. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:

This novel will be the first one that we discuss when we return in August. You will be given an objective test on this book after we have a chance to review it. This is the American classic that Ernest Hemingway referred to when he stated, "American literature truly began with The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. We will discuss what he meant by this and explore the greatness of Twain's novel.

Take notes and/or annotate as you read The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. These will not be collected, but you will study your notes or what your annotations have noted for the objective test.

## 3. The Catcher in the Rye:

This novel was written over a half century ago, yet in many ways, it is quite contemporary. We will discuss this work after reviewing The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Both of these novels deal with "the coming of age" theme found in American literature, and we will explore the relationship and continuity in American literature shared by these two literary works.

In Salinger's novel, Holden Caulfield is telling his story to the reader from a hospital in California where he is receiving therapy and recovering from an emotional/psychological breakdown. We can assume that Holden is telling this novel to a psychiatrist. His flashback takes place over a period of several days just after he has been expelled from Pencey Prep School and has returned to New York City, his hometown.

After reading the novel, complete the following questions: Type all responses.

1. The American author, William Faulkner, said of Holden Caulfield, "He exemplifies the tragedy of youth in that when he attempted to enter the human race, there was no human race there."

Respond to Faulkner's quote. Include the following in your writing: In what ways was this sixteen-year-old youth, living in the early 1950s, attempting to enter the human race? What do you think Faulkner meant by his statement that "there was no human race there" for Holden?

Provide examples and citations from the novel to support your thoughts.

2. Research Buddhism.

Write a summary of the basic beliefs and ideas involved with this religion/philosophy. Include historical background that identifies the who, what, where, when, and why Buddhism came to be such an important influence in the world.

3. What are Holden's thoughts about God, religions, and religious hypocrisy in the novel? Provide examples and quotes to support all of your analysis. Also, provide extensive and thoughtful commentary regarding Holden's ideas about these matters.

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The Reading Packet: Nonfiction

1. "Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream" - Joan Didion
2. "First Inaugural Address" - Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933)
3. "Second Inaugural Address - Abraham Lincoln (1864)
4. "Inaugural Address" - Barack Obama (2009)

Answer the questions given with the readings. Type all work. Save your work to submit to Turnitin.com once we are back in August.

English 3 AP - 2009

## Summer Reading Responses for Inaugural Addresses

You are to carefully read the Inaugural Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Barack Obama.

1. Write one or two paragraphs in response to each Inaugural Address that summarizes the central--most important--issues and concerns that each President discusses in his speech.

2. After thinking at length about what issues and problems facing the nation are addressed by each of the Presidents, write an essay and take a position in which you argue which concern(s) or problem(s) you believe were or (in the case of Barack Obama) are the most difficult challenges for the President and the nation to resolve. Be clear in identifying the issues and explaining why you believe your choice of issues is the most important. Refer to the Inaugural Address giving examples and quotes from the speech in support of your position.

You may have to do a bit of historical research to learn more about the times and events concerning each of these Presidents when they delivered their Inaugural Addresses. However, the speeches themselves should relate all of the information that you need to know for this essay.

There is no exact number of paragraphs that you must write. Give a brief introduction that establishes what issue you believe most critical and important. Let body paragraphs provide reasons, examples and quotes. Your essay should have a brief conclusion.