

English 3 Honors

Summer Reading Assignment 2010

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

“Rethinking the American Dream” by David Kemp (*Vanity Fair*, April 2009)

- Read the two summer reading novels and the magazine article prior to our first class in August.



- Highlight important quotations and annotate your books and the article. If you are using a book you cannot write in (like a library book), use post-it notes.
 - Complete your summer reading notebook. See detailed instructions below.
 - Create a visual representation of one novel. See detailed instructions.
- Complete the assignment on “Rethinking the American Dream.” See detailed instructions.
 - **Bring 1) your completed summer reading notebook, 2) your visual representation, 3) your article assignment and 4) your highlighted/annotated novels and article to our first class.**
***This is the deadline: no late work is accepted in English 3 Honors.**
 - Be prepared for quizzes, writing assignments, tests and other class activities on both novels and the article during the first weeks of school.

Summer Reading Notebook: Two Sections/One for Each Novel

1. **Cover page:** Title (you create this)/English 3 Honors/Your Name/Date
2. **Format:** typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12. 1-inch margins
3. **For both novels:** (put each topic on a separate page)

Quotations:

- 3 from each novel. (Total of 6 for the notebook)
- Type the quotation; put the page number in parentheses.
- Explain the context (who is speaking, to whom, and the situation: where the speakers are, what is happening.)
- What does this quotation mean? (In your own words, what is the speaker saying?)
- Why is it important to our understanding of the novel?

Language:

- Make a list of 5 slang terms, regionalisms, or unfamiliar phrases that you noticed in the novel. Regionalisms are ways of saying something that are specific to a particular time and place, and may be unfamiliar to people not from that specific time or place. (Total of 10)
After each one, explain what it means.

- Make a list of 5 slang terms and definitions one would need to know to understand 21st century teenagers talking in our local area today.

Background research:

- List 5 important historical, social, political, or economic facts about the time period of the novel that are important for understanding the world of the novel. (10 total)
The Catcher in the Rye, New York City, about 1950.
The Secret Life of Bees, South Carolina in 1964.
- After each one, explain **why** it is important in the novel.
- Add a graphic of the time period: clothing, automobiles, hairstyles, news story, that captures some aspect of the times. **Explain** what it shows about the period. (2 total)

Themes: Each protagonist should be on a separate page in his/her novel section.

- Both protagonists (Lily and Holden) are running away from someone or something, or both. Identify who and/or what each one is fleeing, and explain why.
- Both protagonists are also seeking someone or something. Identify who and/or what each one is seeking, and explain why. Do they find what they are looking for?

Characters:

- Both teenage protagonists encounter several adults who either help them or hinder them in their quests to find out who they are and where they belong.
- Choose 2 characters from each novel and explain how each one helps or hinders the protagonist in his/her quest for identity, acceptance and love. (Total of 4)

Evaluation:

- In your opinion, is this novel worth reading? Would you recommend it to a friend?
- Why/why not? Be specific about your reasons and include examples.

Visual Representation

For one of the novels:

Create a visual representation of either novel to share **on our first class meeting day**.

Some examples of visual representations are: movie poster, collage, drawing a character, symbol, setting or theme, illustration of a quotation, symbolic object, mask, costume, puppet, newspaper or magazine headline, article, cover, song lyrics, CD cover. Use your imagination!

Bring your visual to our first class!

Article Assignment: “Rethinking the American Dream” by David Kemp

- Read the article, and highlight 5 important statements about “The American Dream”
- Write your own definition of “The American Dream.” (What does the phrase mean to you?)
- Make a chart in which you write one important political, social, or economic component of the American Dream for each of the following periods in U.S. History:
 - The Puritans
 - The Founding of the Nation/Declaration of Independence
 - 1890-World War I
 - The Great Depression
 - FDR/New Deal/World War II
 - Post War and the 1950s
 - 1970s and 80s
 - 1990s and 2000s
 - The present
- The author mentions a number of movies, televisions shows, books and advertisements that capture the idea of the American Dream in particular periods. Choose one from any era and explain what it tells us about the idea of the Dream at the time. This does not have to be one mentioned in the article; it can be a current movie, TV show, book, ad, product, etc.
- Choose one symbol of The American Dream to share with the class. Bring this on our **second class day**. It can be a picture, an object, a video, a newspaper or magazine ad or cartoon, a song, a product...

Enjoy your summer and your summer reading!



