



THE MASTER'S SCHOOL

American Voices: AP English Language and Composition *Mrs. Jessica Sperry*

Summer Assignment

Students will read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and one of the following books from the list below.

- *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer
- *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

Students must obtain their own hard copy of *The Scarlet Letter*, so that they can annotate as they read. The book will be collected and graded the first week of class. Here are two sources for help with annotations:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hm1Z6RopQlo>
- http://chuma.cas.usf.edu/~pinsky/mark_a_book.htm

Using Spark Notes or Shmoop or reading the novels in a language other than English is forbidden. *Developing your own thoughts and arguments is critical to success in this course.*

Required Supplies

- A three-subject spiral notebook with at least 150 pages or two composition style notebooks. You will use this for summer reading and for class notes.
- Pens: blue or black, red, and other colors of interest
- Highlighters, various colors
- Sticky notes (any kind)

JOURNALS

While reading *The Scarlet Letter*, students are required to keep a dialectical journal. Use either a composition or a spiral-bound notebook. You will use the same one over the summer that you use during the school year, so choose one that will hold up and that has enough pages.

These journals will consist of quotations to which you respond critically.

- Please **label the chapter and date at the top of each page.**
- Select one quotation or passage for *approximately* every 15 pages.
- Respond to the quotations: *focus on the ways in which the author uses language to create an effect on the reader.*
 - What is it about the language that stands out and makes the passage distinctive?
 - What is your reaction to the characters?
 - Are there recurring images or themes that stand out?
 - What is your personal reaction to the work?

Your journals will be collected on the second day of class. Responses should be developed thoughtfully and intellectually. An “A” journal will contain responses that are approximately 60 words in length and will contain multiple quotes per chapter. The dialectical journals should be constructed in the following manner:

Chapter	Date
Quote	Response
<p>“Write the quote from the on the left side of the paper with quote the correct MLA citation” (176).</p> <p>You should take a quote approximately every 15 pages.</p> <p>You can have more than one quote and response per page, and you can use the back of the page.</p>	<p>Your response and analysis of the book should be written on the opposite side of the (same) page. For the RESPONSE column, you have several ways to respond to a text, but you only need to use one way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text • Give your personal reactions to the passage • Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or a character • Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences • Write about what it makes you think or feel • Argue with or speak to the character or author <p>Responses should be approximately 60 words in length.</p>

ANALYSIS ESSAY

Once you have read, annotated, and journaled, you are ready to write an analysis essay. Choose one of the following prompts and type a 2-3 page essay in MLA format on one of the following prompts—label your choice in your heading.

- **Prompt 1:** Read the following passage (paragraph 3, “I might be, ... martyrdom.”) from *The Scarlet Letter*, Chapter 5, “Hester at Her Needle.” Then write an essay showing how Hawthorne depicts Hester’s inner turmoil. Consider such rhetorical devices as diction, figurative language, syntax, irony, and tone.
- **Prompt 2:** Read the following passage (paragraph 7, “Hester sought not, ... wrong, beneath.”) from *The Scarlet Letter*, Chapter 5, “Hester at Her Needle.” Then write an essay analyzing the author’s use of clothing to reveal Hester’s self-perception, the attitude of Hester’s neighbors, and the nature of her daughter’s conception. Consider such rhetorical devices as diction, imagery, syntax, irony, and tone.
- **Prompt 3: Comparison/Contrast Prompt:** Read the following passages from *The Scarlet Letter*. Passage 1 is from Chapter 2, “The Market-Place” (paragraph 11, “The young woman ... by herself”). Passage 2 is from Chapter 3, “The Recognition” (paragraphs 1 and 2, “From this intense ... his lips”). Then write a carefully reasoned and fully elaborated analysis of Hawthorne’s attitude toward these two characters. Consider allusion, irony, imagery, syntax, organization of details, and other rhetorical devices.
- **Prompt 4: Analysis Prompt:** Read Chapter 9, “The Leech,” from *The Scarlet Letter*. Then write an essay analyzing how Hawthorne uses setting, allusion, metaphor, irony, diction, and tone to reveal character.
- **Prompt 5: Analysis Prompt:** Read Chapter 22, “The Procession,” from *The Scarlet Letter*. Then write an essay analyzing how Hawthorne uses rhetorical devices, including irony and extended metaphor, to reveal the conclusion. (College Board, *AP English Language and Composition Syllabus 4*).

Bring in a hard copy of this essay on the second day of school.

CHOICE BOOK AND PROJECT

As you read the novel of your choice from the list above, you need to annotate the book. If you are borrowing it, use sticky notes. This will keep you engaged in the reading and will make it easier to return to the novel when you are finished in order to complete this project, for which you have several choices. All projects should include an analysis of **three elements such as plot, theme, imagery, character, or conflict, with five to six quotes to support your analysis of the text.** DO NOT use Spark Notes and/or Shmoop to do this assignment. I am interested in your own thoughts and analysis. In whatever project you choose, you need to analyze three elements and support it with five to six quotes.

- Choice 1: **Essay**—Write an analysis essay on the book of your choice. Your essay should be two-three typed pages in MLA format.
- Choice 2: **Digital**—Create a Power Point or other digital, visual presentation and include major elements listed above.
- Choice 3: **Analog**—Create a booklet, poster, or “One-Pager” with illustrations (your own or ones you find) to demonstrate your understanding of the important elements in the novel. Analyze important elements, pairing your ideas with visual representations of the work. *Creativity encouraged!*
 - For specific instructions on the One-Pager, please see this link: https://www.easthighavid.com/uploads/1/3/3/6/13367187/the_one_pager.pdf

This project is due the first week of school.

If you have any questions, please email me. I look forward to working with you next year.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

Mrs. Sperry

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