

English 2 Honors

RBRHS

Summer Reading Assignments 2009

1. Blog Postings

You are required to make three blog postings throughout the summer on the first three summer reading novels. The address for our class blog is:

www.rbrenghonors.blogspot.com

You are required to post a brief response to a particular literary element in each novel. Each post should be treated as an introduction to a potential explication. Remember: This is an analysis, not a book report. Review the steps for a literary analysis below for insight into the writing process. The posting dates are:

<u>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</u>	- July 10
<u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u>	- July 24
<u>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</u>	- August 7

Remember: the “www” stands for the “world wide web,” so this assignment can be completed from anywhere on planet Earth; so, unless you are spending vacation on the moon, or another planet, I expect this assignment to be completed on time.

2. Explication

This is a two page writing assignment on Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. It is due on the first day of school. Proper MLA format, double space, size 11 font (I will take off points if you use size 12 font).

What is an explication? An explication is an “unfolding” of the story as you see it. Probably the most common approach to writing about literature, an explication is simply an analysis of a literary element. In this analysis, you will examine a literary device that helps weld together the mosaic of the entire work. It is an objective assertion of your view, a kind of literary argument. It is less constraining in form than a five paragraph, three-point thesis essay. You are free to approach the novel from any angle that interests you; this is literary and advanced writing, the kind of writing you will be expected to write in college. Common literary elements include:

Character	Rhyme
Setting	Imagery
Plot	Figures of Speech
Theme	Symbol
Dialogue	Tone
Point of View	Mood
Rhythm	

When you approach the writing, first decide which of the above elements you would like to discuss. Think about the relationship between the element and the other parts of the novel and its impact on the work. Have fun with this assignment; take a chance and propose an interesting argument.

3. Literary Criticism

Also due on the first day of class, literary criticisms are simply a published literary analysis by a person who is an accomplished critic, writer, professor, or intellectual. You must research and find a literary criticism for each of the four novels. You must bring a printed copy

to class, and you must demonstrate a thorough understanding of the criticisms and provide your own notes on the texts. You should research literary criticisms before you read each novel, and then use the author's analysis to elucidate an aspect of the novel *as you read it*.

Writing your Explication

Any analysis of literary elements should:

- show a thorough understanding of the work as it gains meaning from the literary elements,
- include an introduction naming the work and its author
- include a topic or thesis statement that names the literary elements to be discussed and at least implies the means by which you will develop the discussion
- support your ideas with details from the work, either quoted or paraphrased
- **explain how the literary elements affect the interpretation of the literature,**
- follow a rather formal writing style, limiting point of view to third person,
- conclude with a reaction to the literary elements as they expand the works meaning

Writing Process

Use the following steps when writing your essay:

1. Reading for analysis: Careful reading precedes any other activity. Once you decide which of the many elements you will discuss in a given work, reread the work (or certain parts of the work) searching for examples. Study the element's relationship to other parts of the work and its impact on the work. Always take notes as you read!!! **I encourage you to buy your own copies of the summer reading books so you can pencil in notations, underline, or comment on important words, phrases, and passages.**
2. When your careful reading is complete, you then narrow the focus of your paper. For example, if you choose to write about a particular symbol in the story, you must decide what you will develop as your main idea. Will you discuss how it enhances the theme, how a particular interpretation of it changes the readers' perspective of the novel, how it enhances the character development, changes or suggests the mood, relates to social events or society as a whole, etc. Or if you choose to write about a particular image, will you discuss the effect it has on the novel's overall meaning? Narrowing the topic to a single focus come most easily by looking for repeated ideas in your notes from Step 1. The focus must lend itself to thorough development within the limits of your paper and deal with some important aspect of the work.
3. Next, list examples from the work that support your topic. Use the notes you developed in Step 1. Organize the items in a logical manner. The organization may show relationships, cause and effect, comparisons, or opinion. Or you may arrange the items by some order of importance or perhaps by the chronological order of the appearance in the literary work.
4. Begin writing your explication. Unlike a typical 5-paragraph essay, an explication can begin right away by stating your thesis statement. There is no set number of paragraphs needed; you are free to develop the idea and express it in as many paragraphs as you feel necessary.
5. Revise and improve content. Never settle for the first draft!! You can always make it better.
6. Proofread and check details. There are no excuses for spelling and grammar mistakes.

Summer Writing Workshop 2009

Workshop Dates: Session 1 July 20 – 24

Session 2 August 17 - 21

Room 208

Time 1 – 3 p.m.

The writing workshops are designed to help you develop your writing and prepare you for the coming academic year. There are two workshops available; please choose the one of the two workshops that best fits your summer schedule.