

Red Bank Regional High School English II CP – Summer Reading Assignment

Answer each question with a full paragraph. Be sure to use quotations and specific examples from the novels in your answers. These questions are due THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, typed and double spaced.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

1. In what ways does Fahrenheit 451's society resemble our modern America? Do you think our society could become like the novel's? Is this already happening?
2. Consider the character of Clarisse: What is her function in the novel, and why does Bradbury remove her so quickly? How does she contrast with Montag's wife Mildred, and how might this influence Montag's later actions?
3. How does Montag respond to Beatty's attempt to arrest him? Is this response justified? Why or why not?
4. Montag encounters several texts as he explores the world of books, including Shakespeare's work, the poem "Dover Beach" by Matthew Arnold, and the Bible. What is the significance of each of these texts? Why does Bradbury allude to these particular works? Consider the context in which Montag encounters them in your answer.
5. Fire takes on many different meanings in Bradbury's book, both positive and negative. Find and explain an example of each – one from before Montag leaves the firemen, and the other from after his arrest. Then consider the final fire image, the mythical Phoenix. How, and why, has fire transformed as a symbol by the novel's end?

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

1. How does Sofia's relationship with her father change over time?
2. How does Yolanda's attitude toward the English language change?
3. Why does Carla want to return to the Dominican Republic?
4. Why did the Garcia family leave the Dominican Republic? Why did they decide to remain in the United States?
5. How does Yolanda feel toward Dr. Payne? How do their clinical interactions affect their personal relationship? What does Dr. Payne represent for Yolanda?
6. Why does Laura stop inventing? Why does she defend Yolanda to her husband, and how does this relate to her inventing?
7. Why did Sandra insist on making Mrs. Fanning buy her a flamenco doll? Why does she risk embarrassing her family just to have an extra Barbie?
8. Why did Carla not tell the truth sooner when her mother asked her about the missing toy bank? Why did she wait for Gladys to be questioned before confessing that it had been a gift?
9. Why did her father object to Yolanda's speech for school?
10. Why would Yolanda prefer that her mother not attend her poetry readings?

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisernos (English 2 Skills ONLY)

1. The novel is structured as a series of vignettes, or extra-short stories. What is the effect of this structure? Why does Cisernos tell the story in this fragmented way?
2. How does Esperanza mature as the novel progresses, both physically and emotionally? Chart her development as a character by citing specific incidents and individuals that change her. Does she lose her innocence?
3. Why is Esperanza unsatisfied with the house on Mango street? How does her view of her environment develop as the novel progresses? By the end of the novel, what does she decide about her future and her place in the Mango street neighborhood?