

# English 2 CP

## Summer Reading Assignment



### OVERVIEW:

For this summer reading assignment, your job will be to *examine the theme of morality* within two short stories and one non-fiction article. After carefully reading and annotating the texts, respond to the discussion questions located on the back of this sheet. Each response should be in the *form of a well-written paragraph and include two quotations* from the source as support. All responses must be answered independently. Any act of plagiarism will result in disciplinary action and a zero on the assignment. When you return to school in September, you will write an essay using these works you read over the summer.

### READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Should you need additional copies, all documents are available on RBR's website.

- ["The Most Dangerous Game"](#) by Richard Connell
  - This short story deals with survival and the moral decisions one has to make when life has become a game of hide and seek, hunt or be hunted.
    - [http://www.lorainschools.org/Downloads/dangerous\\_game.pdf](http://www.lorainschools.org/Downloads/dangerous_game.pdf)
- ["The Veldt"](#) by Ray Bradbury
  - This science fiction short story examines the psychological implications that arise from questioning the morality of human nature.
    - [https://www.d.umn.edu/~csigler/PDF%20files/bradbury\\_veldt.pdf](https://www.d.umn.edu/~csigler/PDF%20files/bradbury_veldt.pdf)
- [Ethan Couch and the Affluenza Defense.](#) NYTimes article
  - This article details the events surrounding Ethan Couch, the 16 year old male sentenced to 10 years of probation after killing four individuals while driving under the influence of alcohol and prescription drugs.
    - <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/14/us/teenager-who-used-affluenza-defense-is-sentenced-to-jail.html>

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Read and annotate the three texts
- Respond to the 12 discussion questions in the form of well-written paragraphs
- Provide and properly cite two quotations in each response (author's last name #).
- Preferably typed, but hand written assignments will be accepted
- Be prepared for class discussions and writing assignments

### DUE:

- First day of English class

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

In well-written paragraphs, respond to the following questions. Be sure to include and properly cite two quotations in each response to support your opinion.

***The Most Dangerous Game:***

1. Does everyone follow the rules of the game? Any cheaters there? Do rules count if only one person knows them?
2. What, ultimately, is “the most dangerous game”? Does “game” refer to the hunted (“game animals”) or to the competition between Rainsford and Zaroff? Or both? Does that change the meaning of the story?
3. Zaroff was raised in aristocratic environment. May this have led him to his desire to hunt people lesser than him, as he sees them?
4. In this short story, when men hunt animals, are they really entering a natural world, or are they just using the tools of “civilization” to commit murder out in the wild where laws don’t apply?

***The Veldt:***

1. The story ends in violence and death. Would you call it an accident, or murder? Who is most responsible for what happened? Who is innocent? How could this ending have been avoided? Give quotes as evidence.
2. “The Veldt” was published in 1951. It offers a view of what Bradbury predicted family life and technology would be like around the year 2000. Is it an accurate view? Why or why not?
3. Authors often put their own ideas in the voice of a character. Which character speaks for Ray Bradbury? Why do you say that? Explain the message of this story: what was Bradbury trying to say? Is the play a warning?
4. Parents should give their children love and affection rather than the quick remedy of technology or the consequences could be disastrous. Debate this statement. Use evidence from the text to support your claim.

***Ethan Couch and the Affluenza Defense:***

1. Why are people upset over the court’s ruling? Do you agree with the court’s ruling? With the public outcry? Explain your response.
2. As stated by Ethan Couch’s defense lawyer, is there such thing as a “consequence free environment”?
3. What is the difference between stating an individual **could** be rehabilitated vs. an individual is **worth** being rehabilitated? How does this factor into the decision making process of Judge Jean Boyd?
4. Commenting on the juvenile criminal system, one Dallas Observer reporter posed the question, “Because we condemn everyone else’s kid to violent prisons, does that mean it’s unjust to let any one kid go?” In light of the events within the article, what answer would you offer to this question?