

2020 3-4 Honors Summer Reading

Students in 3-4 Honors are **usually** expected to acquire and read the following texts and complete the tasks prior to the first day of class: ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. and *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn**. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be postponing these books and reading them during the school year. Students will be expected to have them when school begins in August. Please plan accordingly.

Therefore, due to extenuating circumstances, students will instead choose to read whatever fictional novel they want over the summer for the 3-4 Honors summer reading project. I understand and accept that you may choose a novel you have already read, but my project is more of an exercise in analyzing and using quotes and textual content to support answers and respond to critical thinking and open-ended questions.

Happy reading and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you next year. Please message me if you have any questions or would like a book recommendation. Katie.Harkema@dvusd.org

Summer Reading Assignment: Student choice of a fictional novel

This assignment is intended to teach you to become a more alert and analytical reader, so it's important that you complete the steps while you are reading and not afterwards when you may have forgotten some critical elements of the story. Your work will be submitted in Canvas and checked through Turnitin.com for plagiarism, so please be sure to type up your activities and cite your work.

Part I: Vocabulary (20 Points)

For your novel, record 20 unfamiliar or challenging words that appear in the text, noting the page number on which the word appears. Then provide a dictionary definition for each word, also providing the part of speech. Then, write a sentence explaining how knowing the definition of that word helps you understand what's going on in the book. PLEASE NOTE: Writing that you already understand every word in the novel is not an appropriate response and will result in a zero for this section.

Part II: Quotations/Key Passages (40 Points)

For your novel, you should find 10 quotations or key passages that reflect an essential element of the novel. Copy each section word for word and include quotation marks and the speaker's name (if it's a direct quote). Then, explain the relevance or importance of the selected quotation. How does it relate to the work as a whole? Does it illustrate the novel's theme, reveal character traits, or depict a plot twist? Be as specific as possible and be sure to fully explain your choice and reasoning.

Part III: Historical Background and Context (20 Points)

Using the Internet and other resources, research and locate information about when the novel was written. Include a three-paragraph, page-long minimum summary about the time period in which the novel was written, any information about the author of the novel, any awards the novel won, etc. Be sure to cite your sources. Think about why these things are relevant to the novel and think about why this research is an important part of being a well-rounded learner.

Part IV: Review (20 Points)

Write a review of the novel based on a scale of 1-10. A rating of one would reflect that it's among the worst books you've ever read, while a 10 would mean it was one of the greatest novels you've ever read and a 5 would mean it is average. Then explain and defend your choice with a multi-paragraph, page-long (bare minimum – feel free to write more) response. In your response, you can discuss positive and negative points, your interest level, the subject matter, and complexity. Think about questions such as: What type of students would/would not enjoy reading this novel? What does it offer a college-bound student? Would you read it again?

Due date: This assignment is due Friday, August 7, 2020. 20 points will be deducted for each day thereafter you do not turn in the assignment.

Plagiarism: All work submitted should be your own. While it is fine to consult internet sources as a reference *after* you have read the novel, all writing must be your own. Any student who submits any type of work or a key interpretive idea that is not his/her own is guilty of plagiarism and will receive a zero for the work, and your parents will be notified. Be honest in your work and have the confidence to value your own thoughts and opinions.