

Jackson Township School District
High School Summer Reading Assessment
For 9th -12th Grade Students

After reading your selected summer reading book, complete one essay from the list below. Your essay must be typed in either MS Word or Google Docs. The essay will be submitted to your English teacher within the first week of the semester through the Turnitin program. Your teacher will provide you with directions for submission. You should be prepared to submit the essay in an electronic format, not a paper format. Only electronic submissions will be accepted for this assignment. If you have limited access to a computer over the summer, you must be prepared to show the written copy to the teacher and then use the school's computers to complete the assignment in the required time frame. **The submitted essay will count as a test grade.**

Select one of the tasks below and complete a final draft of the essay prior to the start of the semester. Use the text to support your writing of the essay. Essays should be a minimum of five organized paragraphs and should contain your original ideas and textual evidence to support the thesis statement.

1. **(Dreams & Reality)** Think about the characters in the novel that you've read. Each of the main characters in the novel is introduced to you with certain dreams, plans, and expectations. In the course of the novel, these main characters must come to terms with the difference between their dreams and the reality of the world around them. **Write an essay that examines how the main character(s) in your novel navigate the journey from dreams to reality - What kind of course do they follow, and how are they changed for their journey?** Construct an essay that clearly explains the evidence in relation to your thesis. Utilize the writing process, especially planning, drafting and revision in order to create a cohesive essay worthy of sharing with others.

2. **(Shaped by Period)** Writers can't help but be influenced by the events and people that they see around them. The question is to what extent that influence becomes part of the works that they write and how do they communicate their feelings and beliefs about the world around them. **Write an essay that examines how the characters, setting, and themes in your novel relate to the period in which it was written. How is the novel an analysis of the period? How is it a reflection and how is it a criticism? And how does the writer make opinions about that world clearer to the reader?** Construct an essay that clearly explains the evidence in relation to your thesis. Utilize the writing process, especially planning, drafting and revision in order to create a cohesive essay worthy of sharing with others.

Jackson Township School District
High School Summer Reading Assessment
For 9th -12th Grade Students

3. **(Class Issues)** Think about the role that social class plays in the novel that you've read. What social classes are represented in the novel? To what extent is each class depicted? Are all the classes given equal representation? How do the classes shown in the novel relate to the classes that realistically existed in the time and place where the novel takes place? As you go through your novel, consider two important questions: how does the author feel about the different social classes, and how can you tell the author's opinion? **Write an essay that explores the way that social class and class issues affect the characters and plot of your novel.** Construct an essay that clearly explains the evidence in relation to your thesis. Utilize the writing process, especially planning, drafting and revision in order to create a cohesive essay worthy of sharing with others.

4. **(Theme)** Themes are typically the life problems or moral or psychological issues with which the story concerned, such as issues surrounding survival, social life, love, courage, treachery, compassion, hatred, romance, relationships, growing up, getting old, making friends, disappointment, losing one's mind, exploring new worlds, overcoming enemies, suffering or facing moral dilemmas. Study and consider the themes presented by the author throughout the text. **Write an essay that supports what the author wants readers to understand through reading the book. Determine a thesis that shares the author's intent through theme.** Construct an essay that clearly explains the evidence presented in the text in relation to your thesis. Utilize the writing process, especially planning, drafting and revision in order to create a cohesive essay worthy of sharing with others.

5. **(Realism and the Setting)** Do a close examination of the setting in your novel. What are the primary locations? How are these places made realistic – how does the author use extended description, background information, and specific detail to make the setting come alive for readers? Consider the author's use of literary devices such as imagery and figurative language. How do the main characters fit in the settings – do they seem at home? Out of place? How do their reactions and interactions with the setting affect the realism of the locations? **Write an essay that examines the different techniques that the novelist uses to make the setting vivid and real to readers, and the extent to which these techniques are effective.** Construct an essay that clearly explains the evidence in relation to your thesis. Utilize the writing process, especially drafting, revision and conferencing, in order to create a cohesive essay worthy of sharing with others.

Adapted from: <http://www.tengrrl.com/tens/020.shtml>