

**Academy of the Sacred Heart
Summer Reading Assignments
English IV AP / Honors
Ms. Guillory**

Overview

All students enrolled in English IV AP / Honors will read the books assigned below over the summer and will write about the books in a Reading Journal, a practice we will continue all year long.

Students must bring the novels read and the reading journals to their first English class.

Reading Journal

At a minimum, the Reading Journal is a place for you to keep a record of characters, plots, themes, and literary devices, thus making it a helpful study aide and essay writing source. More importantly, though, the Reading Journal is a place to “converse with specific points in the text that strike you” and to “write about any personal connections you have with the reading.”¹ Finally, the Reading Journal is also a place to brainstorm ideas for an essay about the reading, as multiple essay assignments will be required of you throughout the year.

Other than the essay you will write on one of these readings, the Reading Journal is also the only form of evaluation you will have for your summer reading assignment, so you should fill it with as many good ideas, reflections, and intellectual musings as possible to earn the highest grade. If you read a magazine article or see a movie that relates to the reading, include an entry to explain that connection and the ideas generated from it. Think of it as your academic diary whose focus is the class readings.

Here are some suggestions for organizing and creating your Reading Journal:

- Use a hard copy journal, not an online journal, so that you can have your journal handily next to you anywhere you read. Since you should always highlight and write in the novels you read, you can use the journal as a natural extension of your marginalia.
- Establish a writing routine for yourself to make journal writing a regular habit. Write an entry after every 5 chapters read, or always write on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Don't worry about grammar or spelling in your journal. Focus on idea generation, not proofreading perfection. I will never penalize your journal grade for grammar, spelling, or proofreading.
- Fully express your ideas because they will be read by someone who does not possess your background knowledge. For example, if you want to relate a personal connection concerning your mother that a plot point brings to mind, be sure to include enough details about your mother and your relationship with her to make that connection meaningful to your reader. While you are free to write informally and personally in your journal, you must still express your ideas in complete and full detail for your audience.

¹ Schwiebert, John E. Reading and Writing from Literature. 3rd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

Here are some suggestions for what to write about in your Reading Journal:

- Use passages from the novel as a starting point for thoughtful entries. Selected passages can be as long as a paragraph or as short as a poignant metaphor.
- Conduct research (EBSCO) to generate academic analyses of the reading.
- Relate the reading to prior learning in any discipline.
- Use the journal as a place to record new vocabulary you learn from the reading. Then, write a brief entry on how the author's word choice impacts the meaning of the sentence.
- If something in the reading evokes a memory, write an entry about the memory in connection to the story.

Grading

- 10 points: Journal contains entries based on required number of readings
- 20 points: Journal reflects sustained effort and commitment to the assignment.
- 20 points: Journal exhibits sophisticated, original ideas fully expressed and detailed.

ENGLISH IV AP / Honors:

Choose **THREE (3)**

- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston
- *The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
- *The Iliad* by Homer
- *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy
- *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry
- *Evidence of Things Unseen* by Marianne Wiggins
- *Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood
- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* by Tom Stoppard
- *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevski