

11AP Required Summer Reading Assignment

Due: August 25, 2010

Welcome to the 11th-grade Advanced Placement Language and Composition course. To help you continue your progression as a reader and a writer I have collected a series of challenging and worthwhile books that will promote thought as you read this summer. These readings will help you prepare for a rigorous and stimulating college-level course next school year with an eye on the May AP Language and Composition exam.

It is not necessary but is highly recommended that you have your own copy of the books. It enhances the "conversation" you as a reader will have with the text.

You will read three works this summer for AP Language and Composition, **Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature like a Professor***, **Mortimer Adler's *How to Mark a Book*** (in article format via the internet at: [http://radicalacademy.com/adlermarka book.htm](http://radicalacademy.com/adlermarka%20book.htm)), and **F. Scot Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby***. You should complete all assignments and reading material before the first day of class. You will turn in all assignments on the FIRST day of class. Failure to complete the assignments will put your grade and success in AP in extreme jeopardy. If you have any questions regarding these assignments, please email me at hbrambach@gaston.k12.nc.us. All work should be YOUR OWN! Do NOT consult classmates, cliff notes, internet sources, or other materials; I will know if you did. Use YOUR OWN ideas and analysis, and if you have questions, ask ME!

1. In order to prepare for the rigorous reading component of this class, begin the summer by reading Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature like a Professor* & Mortimer Adler's article concerning *How to Mark a Book* as if they were textbooks. **While reading** each piece, pause and reflect after each chapter. Note 2-3 points you think are important for you to remember when reading literature. Then, continue with your reading. By the end of the book, you should have a running list of tips, advice, and ideas to consider while reading literature for academic purposes. You will turn in this list, but I will give it back to you to keep FOREVER :). I will not be grading how you format your notes, just organize them NEATLY in some manner for your own understanding. You may type or handwrite your notes using blue or blank ink.

2. **While you read *The Great Gatsby***, apply what you learned in the previous texts by noting passages that you think are significant. Mark that book! The goal is to note **your thoughts** about selected quotes after you read in a Cornell Note fashion. **While you are reading**, you should notice thought-provoking ideas that make you stop and ponder because you find relationships to the previous readings. In this assignment, you will keep notes to capture some of these ideas and give your opinion and interpretation of them. You will write the passage that grabs your attention on your paper in the left-hand column. When choosing quotes, perhaps you would like to discover and discuss the author's purpose or a theme or motif in the work. On the other hand, you may write down those quotes that are powerful images, that are surprising, emotional, or that relate to your own experience. Then in the opposite column, reflect on the deeper significance of what is being said. **Ponder, question, and try to answer your own questions** regarding this particular part of the work. This is what you will be doing; thinking on paper and having a dialogue with yourself.

THE ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE FOUR to SIX PAGES IN LENGTH. YOU MUST INCLUDE TEN QUOTES AND NO MORE THAN FIFTEEN

DO NOT CONSULT CLIFF NOTES, THE INTERNET, A CLASSMATE, OR OTHER SOURCES. YOU ALONE MUST CRITICALLY READ THE NOVELS AND ANALYZE OR YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME IN THIS COURSE. YOU MUST DEVELOP AUTHENTIC READING AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS SKILLS. USING THE DICTIONARY IS OKAY TO LOOK UP UNKNOWN WORDS! RECORD QUOTES AS YOU READ. YOU MAY HAVE MORE QUOTES FOR ONE SECTION OF THE NOVEL THAN ANOTHER; THAT IS COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A QUOTE PER CHAPTER.

Type the quote and page number on your paper. Then record insights, connections, questions and/or confusions as you are reading and write your reflections and thoughts underneath the quote. Use 12 pt Times New Roman. Single space within entries, and double space between. See the example from another novel that is attached. The focus is on your analysis, thoughts, and questions, so continue to explain. **Do not just list ideas**. These journals will be the basis of class discussion; you will be called on to share your work! After completion of novel and journal entries (FOUR TO SIX PAGES OF JOURNALING FOR ENTIRE NOVEL - DO NOT EXCEED! I WILL ONLY READ THE FIRST 6), all work should be printed and stapled together with your name, my name, class, and date on the upper left corner of the front page.

REMEMBER, *The Great Gatsby* JOURNALS & NOTES CONCERNING THE TWO READING PIECES ARE DUE TO ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN AUGUST.

Diligent Student

Ms. B-R

AP English Language and Composition

July 15, 2010

Life of Pi Cornell Notes

“While other mice dropped in the terrarium disappeared within two days, this little brown Methuselah built itself a nest, stored the grains we gave it in various hideaways and scampered about the plain sight of the snakes” (107).

“My greatest wish - other than salvation - was to have a book. A long book with a never-ending story. One I could read again and again, with new eyes and a fresh understanding each time” (262).

“Very few castaways can claim to have survived so long at sea as Mr. Patel and none in the company of an adult Bengal tiger” (400).

While describing a miraculous event in the zoo, this quote also relates to the later story in the book. I think “the little brown Methuselah” described by Yann Martel can be portraying Pi when he is away at sea on the lifeboat. Both the mouse and Pi were put in an enclosure with a ferocious animal. Pi also “built himself a nest” when he made his raft and marked his territory on the lifeboat. He stored his food in the compartment similar to the “various hideaways” and he eventually walked around in plain sight of Richard Parker. The comparison shows how the book is tied in various ways from the beginning until the end, revealing it is more than just a story of survival but also asks a question of how does one survive and how does one believe.

Every one wants to learn, and stretch his or her mind. Sure I hate school and dread getting out of bed before the sun rises, but I enjoy learning. I long to find out something new; experience something I never have before. Pi longs to learn. He longs to occupy himself with knowledge as he states, “with my new eyes and a fine understanding each time.” I try to understand the thoughts and feelings other people have. I want to learn something new every time I read a book. Pi wants one book that will give him increased knowledge every time he reads it. Wouldn't that be nice to read?

This quote is significant because it brings a powerful image to my mind. One of the very events Mr. Okamoto, through all his earlier doubts, doesn't seem to believe: Pi's story. However, he shows in this quote his belief in the *story* of Piscine Patel. This quote presents a symbol to the reader. It almost gives a chance for the reader to disagree with whether Pi's story is fact or fiction. This event relates secularly to the saying “seeing is not believing, believing is seeing.” The statement shows that although Mr. Okamoto did not witness the account of Pi, he now believes. Personally, this quote can somewhat relate to my life. In my faith, I spend every day of my life believing without seeing. The quote of Yann Martel causes me to question: Why did Mr. Okamoto change his perspective of Pi? What did he all of a sudden decide to believe the real story? What caused him to change his mind? Did Pi know that Mr. Okamoto believes his story? I think Mr. Okamoto may have come to the realization that he should trust what the young survivor had told him, so he took it upon himself to believe in what he could not see.