



SUMMER READING PROJECT

Honors American Literature



*****HUCK FINN ESSAY DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!*****

Please read the following books this summer, and complete the corresponding assignment:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—Mark Twain
Their Eyes Were Watching God—Zora Neale Hurston

The Essay:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Bildungsgroman Essay. 100 points

The German term bildungsgroman essentially means “a coming-of-age story,” a narrative in which the protagonist (the main character of the story) undergoes challenges and overcomes obstacles to grow into a more mature person.

In what ways is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* a bildungsgroman? How does Huck develop as a person over the course of the novel? In what ways does he mature? What does he learn? Does he become a better person? How so? Does he become wiser? How so?

For this essay, choose three ways Huck develops over the course of the book. Explain how Huck grows and changes in these three particular ways, and be sure to support your claims with plenty of evidence from the novel. In your conclusion, explain to the reader why these changes and developments in Huck’s character are meaningful. Why are your observations significant? What can we learn from this novel by understanding your perspective on the book? Why do your opinions matter?

Requirements:

*Your essay should be at least six paragraphs long, and each paragraph should be at least five sentences long.

*Your essay should be typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font, with standard 1” margins.

*Give your paper a specific-yet-concise title, and be sure to include your name in the top right corner of the first page

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You will be graded on:

- *Your ability to follow directions
- *Your ability to write in a formal, grammatically correct manner. Be sure to revise your paper thoroughly—any mistakes in grammar or usage will be penalized.
- *Your ability to offer interesting, insightful observations that prove you've read the book carefully and taken this assignment seriously
- *Your content as well as your style. Only arguments that are expressed with clarity and precision will be rewarded with high grades.

*******SPECIAL EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY:**

All essays received by August 2nd will receive five extra credit points. This will be your only opportunity to earn extra credit for this class.

***For *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, there is no assignment due—simply read the book by the beginning of the school year, for it will be our first unit of the year. **Please note: You will take a reading test over this novel on Monday, August 22nd.**

Questions? Feel free to contact me through my work email (jrojek@yeshivaatlanta.org), but understand that I will only check my email two or three times a week during most of the summer. After August 1st, however, I will be checking my email daily.

Good luck!!!