

Yeshiva Atlanta's
Summer Reading Program
British Literature
Honors and College Preparatory

Summer Reading Philosophy:

Yeshiva Atlanta's English Department believes that the Summer Reading Assignment is an opportunity for students to establish a broad literary foundation and to develop cultural literacy. Second, students need to exercise their independent reading and thinking skills during the summer months in preparation for college. Third, the Summer Reading Assignments contribute to a lifelong habit of educational growth and entertainment. Literature allows students to use their imaginations to take them to unknown worlds and to give them a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

The Summer Reading Packet contains a list of books the student may choose from and the assignment options for each, as well as an additional, non-fiction assignment. The assignments in this packet *are to be completed by the first day of school in August*. Having the students read and do minimal assignments throughout the summer ensures that the students will be better prepared and ready to start the curriculum for the new school year.

Summer Reading Assignments

****Be sure to read through this entire packet very carefully, more than once, to ensure that you complete all assignments for your class correctly. Assignments differ slightly between CP and honors classes.**

Summer Reading Assignments require the use of close reading, reading comprehension and interpretation skills. Therefore, the assignments are within the expectations of the grade level just completed, yet challenging enough to give the new grade level teacher an indication of the abilities of the student. The student should not spend an extraordinary amount of time on each assignment. Yet, he/she should read each selection carefully prior to attempting the assignment. Please consult the last page of this packet for explanation concerning the computation of grades and expectations of assignments.

**Assignments will be submitted on the first day of school, August 2011.
NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

****Students accepted and enrolled after July 31 should have all of the assignments completed by the first day of school.**

British Literature

Honors and College Preparatory

Reading List*

Honors and College Preparatory: Choose 1 book to read from the list below.

(Assignment options on following pages)

<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Bronte
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Austen
<i>Atonement</i>	McEwan
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Bronte
<i>Vanity Fair</i>	Thackeray
<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	Wilde
<i>Dracula</i>	Stoker
<i>Emma</i>	Austen
<i>Hard Times</i>	Dickens
<i>Lucky Jim</i>	Amis
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Shelley
<i>Angela's Ashes</i>	McCourt
<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	Swift
<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>	Woolf
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	Carroll
<i>1984</i>	Orwell
<i>The Hours</i>	Cunningham
<i>Lord Jim</i>	Conrad
<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	Joyce

I suggest you do a little investigation of the titles above, to find one that you will enjoy reading before you begin.

*Not every book will be appropriate for every student, reading level or content. We encourage parents to be a part of their child's decision of which book(s) to read.

Summer Reading Assignments:

Due on the first day of class!

All work must be TYPED!

Follow directions carefully!

Assignment 1: **CP and Honors:**

Lord of the Flies- Golding

Journal/Diary Assignment:

Write four separate journal entries, as if you were one of the **major** characters in the novel. Each entry should be from a different section of the book and should be a *reaction* to the situation, but **NOT** a summary. Write your entry in the character's voice and from his point of view. In other words, pretend you are this character at this point in the novel. Use specific details and clues to make very clear the perspective from which you are writing and the particular part of the book on which you are commenting. Make sure it is insightful and original. This should be done as you are reading the novel so that you, like the characters you are reading about, do not know what will happen next or what the end of the novel will be.

Each entry should be one page in length; typed, double-spaced, 1" margins.

Include page numbers of the incidents reflected in your journal entries at the top or bottom of each written entry.

Assignment 2: **Honors only!!**

Grendel- Gardner

Newspaper Reporter: Interview of Grendel :

You are a newspaper reporter for a 21st century newspaper. Grendel escaped his tormentors in Anglo-Saxon England and has survived until his capture and imprisonment in the 21st Century. You are interviewing Grendel as he awaits his sentencing. In your interview, include the following questions:

- Who are you? Who are your ancestors? Describe their physical appearance.
- Where do you live? Do you consider this your home? Where did you live in Anglo-Saxon times?
- When were you captured and under what circumstances were you captured?
- Why did you terrorize the meadhalls and their occupants, especially Hrothgar and Unferth?
- As you face your final hours, how would you like to be remembered?
- What would you say your philosophy about life is?
- What has been your impression about mankind over the last one thousand years?

Now write the article for your newspaper:

- Invent a reporter-persona for yourself (invent a nom de plume and a stylistic voice)
- Give your newspaper a catchy name, and come up with an attention-grabbing title for your article
- Make sure your article includes the basics of the story, any revelations about the character of Grendel, and of course, your interview.

Assignment 4: CP and Honors

Choose **one** book from the book list to read. Then choose one of the following assignment options for that book.

Follow all instructions very carefully and do your own work!!

Assignment Options for Books from the Book List (on 2nd page):

Option 1:

Personal Response Journal or Main Character Journal

- Keep a reaction journal while you read the book- it may be from your own point of view, as the reader, **OR** from the point of view of the main character.
- You are to react to the events in the book *as they happen*, so you will need to do this assignment as you are reading the book, rather than when you are finished.
- Your journal will consist of **two** entries: the first when you are about ½ way through the book, and the second when you are finished.
 - Briefly describe what has happened up to that point (only the most important event(s)- no need to summarize everything) in one paragraph.
 - Then, write your reaction to the events and the characters involved (details below; 1-2 paragraphs).

For the first entry:

- If you are writing from your own, the reader's, point of view, describe how you feel about what has happened in the first half of the book.
 - Did you see the events that took place coming?
 - What do you think about the main character(s) so far?
 - How would *you* feel if you were in their position?
 - What do you think is going to happen next?

-OR-

- If you are writing from the main character's point of view, put yourself in his/her place, and write what you *think* their reaction would be to the events and other characters up to this point in the book. How is this character feeling right now? What does he/she think about what's happened so far and what will happen next?

For the second entry:

- Follow the same guidelines as above, but reflect on the second half of the book. The first paragraph should be a brief summary of the most important development(s) in the second half of the book. Then use the following prompts to guide you in writing your 1-2 paragraph response to the second half:

- Are you (as the reader or as the main character) surprised at what happened?
- How do you feel about it?
- What, if anything, did you learn from the characters and events in the book?

*Make sure that there are direct references to the book in your work, proving that you have closely read and analyzed the works

Option 2: Reaction Paper

A 'reaction paper' is a chance for you to explore and express your feelings toward the work you read and your experience of reading it. It is to be your personal response to the work, explaining what you got out of it and what you think about it. However, you don't want it to be too general, so I've provided some guidelines below to aid you in staying focused on one or two main points. This paper is relatively short, so there's no room for wandering off topic.

Your reaction paper should be very thoughtful (and thought-provoking to your reader), intellectual and reflective. It should also, of course, be highly articulate and extraordinarily well written with a strong voice and in your own developed style. Make sure that your paper is impeccably focused and organized. Your paper **SHOULD NOT summarize or ambivalently discuss facts or elements of the book. It should NOT be a superficial, passionless analysis.** It SHOULD be your own personal, honest reaction to the piece, written in your own voice and style. As always, you must take a stand, but this stand should be of a personal nature.

Here are some suggestions to get you started; however, you are free to take your own approach or write on another idea. Use one, some, or all of the following questions to stimulate your thinking and reflection on the work and use them as a basis for your reaction:

- What was most poignant, interesting or profound aspect of the story? Why?
- What is note-worthy or unique about the author's style or presentation?
- What do you think the author's intention was in writing this book? Did he accomplish it? How do you know?
- Did this book change your opinion or perspective on anything? Did it solidify it?
- Was there something in the book that spoke to you on a personal level? Were you able to relate to it? Not relate?
- What were your expectations of reading this book? Were they met, exceeded or disappointed? How? Why?
- What was the most compelling passage in the book? What makes it so?

However you choose to approach this assignment, make sure that you **support your views with specific *reference(s)* (direct quotes not necessary) to the book. This is not a paper about your personal reaction to life in general, or a particular concept in general, but to something specifically dealt with in the book.

REQUIREMENTS AND REMINDERS:

Length: **minimum** of 600 words, **maximum** of 800 words. Write the exact word count at the bottom of the last page.

Give your paper a catchy title, which serves to state what exactly your paper is about, and an interest-grabbing first paragraph.

Remember: Although this assignment is of a more personal, less formal style, organization, focus, clarity and coherence are always paramount to an excellent paper.

Summer Reading Grading Policy British Literature Honors and College Preparatory

Grades for Summer Reading will be given in the following manner:

Lord of the Flies: 100 points

Grendel: 80 points

Book Choice projects:

100 points

Please make sure each assignment is clearly labeled, with name, class and assignment on a cover page – no headings on actual assignment please.

Again, all assignments are due on the first day of class!

Failure to complete Summer Reading Assignments will be extremely detrimental to your first semester grade and, consequently, may impact your yearly average.

Your work must reflect full effort!