

Ancient Literature Summer Reading

Welcome to LaGrange Academy Ancient Literature. The class will be a study in epic literature, both classic and modern. Thus, the summer reading assignment is directly connected with these concepts. I hope you will take the task seriously and choose books that truly interest you so that we can get off to a great start. If you have any questions at all regarding the assignment, please feel free to contact me at teresakrizay@lagrangeacademy.org.

Choosing the right books for you

Not all books are appropriate for all readers. Please note that some books may contain explicit language, sexual references, or mature subject matter. Thus, it is suggested that parents help their students make appropriate summer reading selections. To read descriptions and reviews of all the books, go to www.goodreads.com/book/explore. If you are unhappy with your choice, feel free to make another selection from the list provided. **Your book(s) must come from the attached list. Do not deviate from the list.**

Requirement #1 – Read one (1) or more books

You are required to read **1 or more** books from the attached list by the first day of class. The number of pages read must exceed **300 pages**. You may read one book that exceeds 300 pages or you may read multiple books that add cumulatively to 300 or more pages. You may not read books that were a part of any previous year's curriculum. Suggestion: Read one book in June and one in July. Use a calendar to determine the number of pages you'll read each day or week, and then stick to your plan.

Do not assume that this requirement can be met by only watching a movie based on a book. Movies often vary from the actual book and you will not be able to complete your assignment using this method.

Requirement #2 – Complete note-taking sheets for all books

On the first day of school, submit a note-taking sheet for each book. The note-taking sheets differ by grade, so be sure to use the correct sheet. Follow the directions on the note-taking sheet. These note-taking sheets will not be accepted after Friday of the first full week. **If for some reason, you cannot fully meet this requirement, hand in the best work of which you are capable. Do not start the year with a zero or forfeit credit on a book which you have, in fact, read.**

Requirement #3 – Write an in-class essay the first week of school

Within the first few days of school, you will be asked to write an in-class essay about the book from the grade-level list. This writing test will be given the first week of school Since you may use notes for this assignment, you should use the note-taking sheet you completed as part of the second requirement. Without details and specific quotes from the novel, it will be difficult to properly do

this assignment.

Ancient Literature Summer Reading List

*****You must select a book or books from this list – no exceptions*****

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

North and South by John Jakes

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

Any book in the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier

Name: _____ Book/Author: _____

Genre (type of literature): _____

Ancient Literature Summer Reading Note-taking chart

Directions: Read your chosen text carefully. Pay close attention to character development, theme, symbolism, the significance of the title, and the writer's style. As you read, use the form below to take notes. (If you should need additional space, feel free to use additional forms)

One sentence/word answers will not receive credit. You are to be thorough and in-depth with your answers

Synopsis: A synopsis is a summary or a shortened version of a story. Write a synopsis of your selected book:

Themes: A themes is the main idea or underlying message in a piece of literature. There may be more than one theme in a book. List the themes present in your selected work.

Protagonist: PROTAGONIST is the one facing a problem or an obstacle (person or thing) that needs to be solved/overcome. Decide who/what is the protagonist and describe him/her/it.

Antagonist: ANTAGONIST is the one who gets in the protagonist's way, making it difficult for the protagonist to achieve his/her/its goal. Decide who/what/is the antagonist and describe him/her/it.

Setting: SETTING of a work of literature includes its time period, location, and general atmosphere. Describe the setting of your book.

Climax: CLIMAX is the most exciting point of a story. Describe the climax in your story.
(One sentence will not suffice)

Conflict: CONFLICT refers to struggles between opposing sides. Conflict includes internal and external conflicts. Describe the conflicts present within your selection.

Resolution: RESOLUTION is the solution to a problem or the ending of a struggle. It finishes or draws a work of literature to its conclusion. Using the conflict(s) that you included above, describe the resolution(s).

Point of View: POINT OF VIEW (POV) refers to angles from which the story is told. Some POVs include FIRST PERSON, SECOND PERSON, THRID PERSON LIMITED VIEW, THIRD PERSON OMNISICENT (we get to know everything). Which point of view does the author use in your story? Why do you think the author selected that particular point of view for his/her book?

Your MOST and LEAST favorite parts: What were your most and least favorite parts of the story? If you could help the author rewrite this book, what changes would you recommend? ***You may not answer "None."

Literary Techniques: LITERARY TECHNIQUES vary from writer to writer. Literary techniques refer to the typical structures used by writers in their works to convey his or her messages in a simple manner to the readers. When employed properly, the different literary devices help readers to appreciate, interpret and analyze a literary work.

Below is a list of commonly used literary techniques. Complete the grid for the ones found in your book. While your book may not contain all the literary techniques listed, it will most assuredly contain a large majority.

If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper

Literary Technique	Example/Quote from text	Significance (what value does it add to the book)
Allusion: A reference in a text to a character, place or situation from history or another piece of literature		
Colloquialism: Regional word or phrase that is not formal; slang		
Foil: A character who represents characteristics, values, ideas, etc., which are directly opposed to those of another character, usually the protagonist.		
Foreshadowing: The author's use of clues to hint at what the outcome might be.		
Imagery: Descriptive words appeal to one or more of the senses.		

Irony: (Verbal, situational, & dramatic) Irony is used to discuss the contrast between reality and expectation.		
Metaphor: A figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two unlike things		
Literary Technique	Example/Quote from text	Significance (what value does it add to the book)
Motif: A recurring theme that helps convey the message of the work.		
Oxymoron: A combination of contradictory terms.		
Paradox: A statement that seems contradictory, but is nonetheless true		
Symbolism: Something that is of itself but represents something else, usually abstract, as well.		
Tone: The attitude of the writer towards the subject matter.		