

English 12 Honors Summer Reading

Due this Friday (15 completion points)

Book Selection

Choose any novel of appropriate difficulty (written for high school and adult readers) that you have not read before. Pick something you will enjoy reading that also challenges you.

Written Responses

- Your writing for each of the three parts should be organized into multiple paragraphs, but no more than one page double-spaced. There are three parts, so you will write three pages. Be sure to save this writing on your computer so you can submit it to TurnItIn, as well turning in a hard copy this Friday.

Part #1 - Characterization: Write multiple paragraphs describing the main character and how s/he changes. Discuss multiple methods of characterization, including the character's own words, actions, or thoughts; what others say and think about the character; or a physical description if it is important. Include some exact words from the text in your response.

Part #2 – Author's Style: Comment thoughtfully on at least two noticeable elements of the writer's style in your book. Do not simply describe them; analyze their effects. Consider at least two of the following:

- **Setting** – What is the effect of the setting, or multiple settings, on the story?
- **Dialogue** – Does the author use any vernacular, or unusually high or low levels of dialogue?
- **Time** – Is there a linear plot structure, or something more complex?
- **Narrator** – What kind of narrator is used? What point of view? Is the narrator reliable?
- **Figurative Language and Word Choice** – Does the author employ any particular types of language, imagery, symbols, or motifs? What connotations do the author's word choices suggest?
- **Sentence Structure and Syntax** – How does the length or complexity of the sentences affect the storytelling?

Part #3 – Theme: Identify one significant theme of the novel. This should be expressed as a complete sentence, not a one-word concept. After you identify this theme, provide specific evidence from the novel to support your claim. Here is an example from one of my favorite novels:

In the novel *Song of Solomon*, author Toni Morrison depicts the importance of understanding our heritage: To become a mature adult, we must understand our past. Morrison conveys this theme as we watch Milkman's transformation from a man-child of 30 who abuses the women in his life into a caring, loving, and complete man. This is only possible because he travels back to the south to learn more about his ancestors. He learns to take pride in his descent from Solomon, the flying African who escapes slavery, while gaining compassion for the women and children who are left behind to suffer alone. Understanding the struggles and accomplishments of his ancestors connects him to the people in his own life. This helps him empathize with Hagar's fear of being abandoned and teaches him he can fly "without ever leaving the ground," just as Pilate does throughout the novel.