

SOHS Summer Reading Assignment 2015

English Department

11th Grade – AP Language and Composition

Students are expected to be able to discuss both texts during the first days of class. The assignment (Part I and II) is due on Monday, August 24, 2015

All students registered for **AP Language and Composition** are assigned the following texts for summer reading.

NONFICTION

What the Dog Saw, by Malcom Gladwell (2009) ISBN # 978-0-316-07584-8

From Publishers Weekly

Gladwell's fourth book comprises various contributions to the *New Yorker* and makes for an intriguing and often hilarious look at the hidden extraordinary. He wonders what... hair dye tell[s] us about twentieth century history, and observes firsthand dog whisperer Cesar Millan's uncanny ability to understand and be understood by his pack. Gladwell pulls double duty as author and narrator; while his delivery isn't the most dramatic or commanding, the material is frequently astonishing, and his reading is clear, heartfelt, and makes for genuinely pleasurable listening.

FICTION

The Night Circus, by Erin Morgenstern (2012) ISBN #978-0-307-74443-2

The Circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called Le Cirque de Reves, and it is only open at night.

But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by the mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Amidst the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone from the performers to the patrons hanging in the balance.

Part I: Choose one creative project to complete for either of the assignment texts.

1. Movie Poster, Sound Track, Cast List

- Create an original movie poster that would advertise the film if your book were to be made into a movie, including at least three significant images based on the plot, characters, settings, conflicts, symbols, motifs, or themes in the text. You may use hand-drawn or computer-generated graphics, but be sure to cite and credit any images that you do not create. Your poster should entice audiences to see the movie and include the rating.
- Second, create a soundtrack for the movie of at least eight existing songs (include the title and artist), each supported by a paragraph explanation of why that song was chosen for inclusion.
- Finally, create a cast list of actors and/or actresses who would portray at least five important characters, each supported by a paragraph explanation of why that actor or actress was chosen for that part.

2. Front Page of a Newspaper

- Create an original front page of a newspaper based on plot, characters, settings, conflicts, symbols, motifs, or themes in the text.

- Your newspaper should have an original name, photographs with captions, a minimum of five journalistic-style, multi-paragraph articles (these could include breaking news articles, feature articles, editorials, interviews, and/or advice columns), and titles for all articles. You may use hand-drawn or computer-generated graphics or photographs, but be sure to cite and credit any images that you do not photograph yourself or create.

3. Blog

- As you read your book, keep an original blog of your reactions to the plot, characters, settings, conflicts, symbols, motifs, or themes in the text.
- Your blog should have a minimum of ten paragraph-length entries, each focusing on a different literary aspect of the book.
- You must use at least three online features including hyperlinks, videos, images, and songs that you find relevant. Be sure to cite and credit anything that you do not create.
- Many website offer free blogs, such as blogger.com, edublogs.org, wordpress.com, thoughts.com, or livejournal.com. Print your finished product and be sure to include the blog's URL.

Part II: Theme and Important Quotations (CANNOT be completed using the same novel used for Part I)

What is a Theme? (adapted from Patti Kingsmill at Vanier College)

The theme of a literary or nonfiction text is its central, sometimes underlying idea about life or human nature. A theme is make up of:

1. A topic of subject;
2. the attitude that the text takes toward that topic;
3. a general, complete idea.

For example, one of the topics in the movie "The Matrix" is reality. The attitude the movie takes to the topic is one of doubt or uncertainty. Therefore, one of the themes of the film regarding that topic is "The world we perceive through our senses may not be all there is of reality."

Step 1: After reading your book, list three topics addressed:

Topic 1:	Topic 2:	Topic 3:
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Step 2: Select one of your topics (or combine them if you want) and write a thematic statement that expresses the attitude the author takes toward that topic or the idea you think the author wants to communicate about life or human nature. Write a complete sentence that could apply to your book.

Theme:

Step 3: After coming up with an applicable thematic statement, find six quotations that you believe support this theme. Be sure to include page numbers for each quote. The quotations selected should provide relevant and concrete examples of the theme. Follow the model below.

<p>Quotation #1: I once had a book on stars but now I don't. My memory serves but not stellar ha. So I made up constellations. I made a Bear and a Goat but maybe not where they are supposed to be, I made some for the animals that once were, the ones I know about. I made one for Melissa, her whole self standing there kind of smiling and tall looking down on me in the winter nights.</p> <p>Page: 26</p> <p>Chosen because: This shows a theme about <u>trying to make order out of chaos</u>. Everything that Hig knows is gone in the world and the sickness that he had has affected his memories slightly. He can't remember the name and shape of the constellations, so he tries to make order by making his own constellations. He wants the comfort of knowing that he can take some kind of control. It's especially revealing that he makes a constellation of Melissa, as if he can only make sense of the world when she is with him.</p> <p>*** this example is NOT from either of the assigned readings***</p>
