

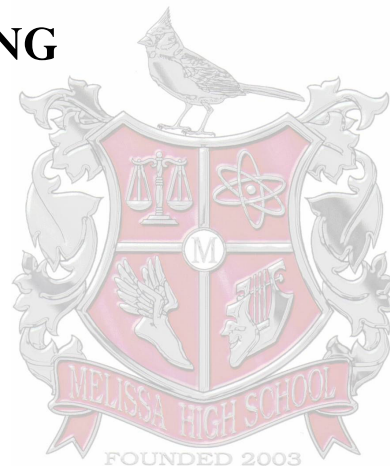
ADVANCED ENGLISH I SUMMER READING

Reading Assignment

Purchase and read The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Writing Assignment

Write a literary 'letter' addressed to your teacher. Since a letter is an informal writing, it will be graded as such; however, the criteria listed below will be used to determine your grade. Remember, write a LETTER, not a postcard! Do NOT produce a plot summary. Discuss the work. Address each of the following in well written paragraphs unless directed otherwise.



1. Write about the author. What life events or circumstances may have influenced the writing of this classic novel? (paragraph)
2. Write personal responses to the work. Discuss your thoughts, feelings, reactions, questions, etc. Discuss what you like/dislike. What is confusing or unusual about the novel? What historical background is necessary to the understanding of this novel? (several paragraphs)
3. Discuss Kino, Juana, or one other significant character. Are they believable? Why/why not? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How do these character traits impact the outcome of the novel? (at least one paragraph per character)
4. Discuss the theme(s) of the novel. What is the universal meaning of the novel? (several paragraphs)
5. Discuss Steinbeck's use of color throughout the novel. Pay specific attention to places of neutral color and places of vibrant color. What impact does this have? (at least one paragraph)
6. Choose a specific passage to discuss the author's style. How does Steinbeck achieve the effects of the passages that moved you? What literary devices does he use and how? (Included below is a Style Analysis Guide to help you). Why did this particular passage stand out to you? (several paragraphs)

Style Analysis Guide (use for #6)

Consider each of the following as you analyze the style of a passage of literature.

1. What is the special feature of this passage? Setting, detail, climax, characterization?
2. Examine sentence length. Are they long? Short? Mixed? Why does the author do this?
3. Determine sentence structure of the passage. What kinds of sentences are used? How are they placed? How does the syntax affect the tone of the passage?
4. Identify figurative devices, imagery, details.
5. How does the author use diction? For what purpose? Are there places where the word choice is unusual? Creative? How does the word choice impact the text?
6. What is the point of view of the novel? Does it shift? How does it impact the story?

Writing About Reading: A Few Guidelines

- Remember, you are writing about the novel, *not about yourself*. This is one of the hardest things for students to overcome. **Instead of saying**,
"I think Steinbeck chooses to first introduce vivid colors when Kino and Juana arrive in town..."
say, "Steinbeck chooses to first introduce vivid colors when Kino and Juana arrive in town..."
Since you are the author of the letter, the reader expects that the thoughts and ideas expressed are your own so there is no need to use "I".
- You may refer to the author by his full name or by his last name only, **but never by his first name**.
- Book titles are underlined: The Pearl

Format (*all formatting guidelines below must be followed*)

- 400 to 600 words typed
- Any generic 12 pt font
- Double spaced with 1" margins
- State the author and the title (underline it and capitalize it, like: The Pearl)
- Date the letter in the upper-right hand corner
- Address the letter to your teacher in a conventional greeting (*Dear Mrs. Rowe,*) and closing (*Love, Your friend, Sincerely, Respectfully,*) with your name

Submission Information: Due Friday, September 3, 2010

- Hard copy turned in during class AND, depending on your teacher, you might be required to submit a digital copy as well. Be sure you have both a hard copy as well as a digital one. More about this will be addressed during the first week of school
- Counted as a TEST grade

If a question arises that must be addressed in the summer, please contact the front office at **(972) 837-4216**. They will direct you to the appropriate teacher for questions. Your teacher is looking forward to working with you in Advanced English I this fall.