

ADVANCED ENGLISH III SUMMER READING

Reading: *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Writing Assignment: Write a literary 'letter' of *at least* 500 words addressed to your English 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, LETTER, not a postcard! Do NOT give a plot summary—assume your teacher will have read the novel numerous times. Discuss it. Address each of the following in well written paragraphs unless directed otherwise.

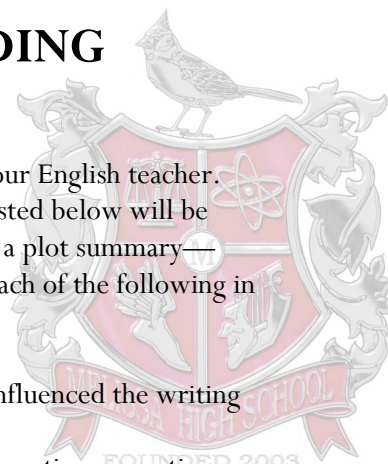
1. Tell me about the author. What life events or circumstances may have influenced the writing of this classic novel?
2. Write personal responses to the work. Discuss your thoughts, feelings, reactions, questions, etc. Tell me what you like/dislike. What is confusing or unusual about the novel? What historical background is necessary to the understanding of this novel? (this will take several paragraphs)
3. Discuss the both Daisy and Gatsby. Are they believable? Why/why not? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How do these character traits impact the outcome of the novel?
4. Discuss at least three literary motifs that surface in the novel.
5. Discuss the theme(s) of the novel. What is the universal meaning of the novel? (again, several paragraphs)
6. Choose a specific passage to discuss the author's style. How does Fitzgerald achieve the effects of the passages that moved you? (**what literary devices does he use and how) Why did this particular passage stand out to you? (again, several paragraphs) **I have attached a list of questions to help you with this, use it or don't, your choice, but this is what I'm looking for.
7. What archetypal characters/situations occur in the novel? What is their relevance?
8. EXTRA: What modern day characters remind you of this group? (think TV, movies, etc. not just literary characters) Why do you think this particular group recurs throughout so many novels, TV shows, movies, etc.? **Make the connections!!

Your letter is by now several pages in length. Please TYPE it, 10 or 12 point generic font, double spaced, with one inch margins.

Style Analysis Questionnaire

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. Analyze each sentence for verb type—tense, passive or active?
3. Examine sentence length.
4. Determine the syntax of the passage.
5. 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?
6. Identify figurative devices, imagery, details.
7. Does the author use diction? For what purpose? Are the words monosyllabic or polysyllabic? Denotative or connotative? Concrete or abstract? Euphonious or cacophonous?
8. Describe the language of the author. Is it formal, informal, colloquial, archaic, etc?
9. What is the point of view of the novel? Does it shift? Does it impact the story?



Submission Information: Due Friday, September 3, 2010

- Hard copy turned in during class AND digital copy of file.
(Directions about digital copy will be explained 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 III this fall.