

# ADVANCED ENGLISH II SUMMER READING

## Reading and Writing Assignment

Purchase any publication and read the novel: Alas, Babylon by Pat Frank

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 it. 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?
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 Randy. Is he believable? Why/why not? What are his strengths and weaknesses? How do these character traits impact the outcome of the novel?
4. Discuss the theme(s) of the novel. What is the universal meaning of the novel? (several paragraphs)
5. Choose a specific passage to discuss the author's style. How does Frank 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)
6. What archetypal characters/situations occur in the novel? What is their relevance?

## Style Analysis Guide

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. Determine the syntax of the passage.
4. 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?
5. Identify figurative devices, imagery, details.
6. How does the author use diction? For what purpose?
7. Describe the language of the author. Is it formal, informal, colloquial, archaic, etc?
8. What is the point of view of the novel? Does it shift? Does it impact the story?

## Submission Information

- DUE: Friday, September 3, 2010
- Counted as a TEST grade
- Typed, 12 point generic font
- Double spaced

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 II this fall.

