

AP English III Summer Assignments

Instructor: Mrs. Becky Gould email: bgould@scspk.12

In order to keep your brains in good working order, and in order to become acquainted with your upcoming AP Literature class, you need to complete the following reading/activity list:

Readings:

- **Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre***
- **Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

For *Jane Eyre* carefully read and respond to the prompts on the back of this sheet.

For *The Picture of Dorian Gray* complete the activity below.

Due the First Day of class:

- **Two novels**
- **Attendant activities**

Activities:

Reader Response Guidelines for *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

There are twenty chapters in this novel. Choose ten and keep a Reader Response Log, following the directions below. For each chapter respond in two roles, i.e. straight talker/judge or judge/artist, etc. When finished, you will have collected twenty responses for your log. These responses do not need to be typed, but they do need to be readable.

- Choose passages from the novel to respond to. Record page # only.
- Respond to the passage in your own words, using one of the reader response roles listed below.
- Write as much as you can, but no fewer than four sentences.

Reader Response Roles:

- **Straight Talker:** Speak directly to a character and "give your two cents' worth." If you could stop the action at a particular point, what would you say?
- **Judge:** Evaluate an action or a decision by a character or characters. Do you feel a wise or a poor decision has been made? Why? What decision would you prefer to have been made? Why?
- **Artist:** What visual images come to mind as you read the story? Draw those images. Write also what your visual image means or represents in the story.
- **Palm Reader:** What has occurred that you consider foreshadowing? What do you believe will occur in the future? Why?

Reflection Prompts -- *Jane Eyre*

Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte, is the story of a young woman's coming of age. Bronte structured her novel in such a way that each setting of the novel symbolizes a stage in Jane's maturing into womanhood.

Below are a series of prompts for each setting that will help you understand both the novel and Jane. Respond to these prompts in reflections of one to one and one-half pages. Do not think that you need to answer each question within each prompt. Instead use the questions to guide your thoughts, to help you interpret or reflect upon the novel in a different way. These reflections should be typed (12 Times New Roman and double-spaced) with complete sentences and well developed paragraphs. Supply textual support from the novel, using MLA documentation. OWL at Purdue is a valuable website for documentation information.

Location 1 -- Gateshead

Describe as many details as you can recall about Jane's experience in the "red room." Discuss the use of colors, details about furnishings, the looking glass. What frightens Jane? How does Mrs. Reed react? In many ways this scene establishes, as does the opening chapter, motifs which recur in the novel. Consider examples that illustrate the motifs of starvation, flight, supernatural occurrences, imprisonment, and madness.

Location 2 -- Lowood

Does Jane's character in Chapter 9 seem different? Has Helen influenced Jane's character? What is the purpose of the characterization of Helen Burns and Miss Temple in Bronte's central task of developing Jane's character?

A Transition

At the beginning of Chapter 10 Jane addresses the reader by commenting that "this is not a regular autobiography." What is the purpose in this change of the narrator's relationship to the reader? How has Jane changed during the eight silent years? When Jane prays for liberty, she concludes, "grant me at least a new servitude." How do you react to that attitude? Is she a typically submissive Victorian woman or a modern assertive woman?

Thornfield

Examine Jane's conversation with Rochester in Chapter 23 very carefully. What is signified by the references to the moth, the birds, the flight? Is Rochester kind or cruel to Jane? What attitude toward the role of women is revealed by his comments about her? Her comments about herself?

Marsh's End

Compare Jane's journey to her preceding journeys. Describe the family who takes her in. What is signified by their names -- what mythological, Biblical, and/or literary characters are suggested?

Ferndean

The last chapter begins, "Reader, I married him." What is the tone of the passage? Is the conclusion a satisfactory one in light of Jane's character development throughout the novel? Does it reveal that Jane is a traditional woman who wants the traditional role of wife and mother?

The above prompts come from the following source:

Humble, Sally and Thomas Humble. *English Literature and Composition*. Duke University Talent and Identification Program, 1999. Print.

Many thanks to Mrs. Susan Morton for sharing these summer assignments.