

11 Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: For this summer reading assignment, you are to choose one of the books on the included book list and write a five-page minimum theme analysis. Your essay will have an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion and will be in MLA-format, including in-text citations and a Works Cited page. Please visit Purdue Owl for a refresher on this citation style! This essay will be written academically, with clear and concise language. You will not use “I” or “You” in your essay. You should annotate the book as you read for any important information that could be used as evidence in your theme analysis essay, which would include quotes you feel represent the most prominent theme in the book. These quotes will be later used throughout your body paragraphs to prove that the theme you chose is the best-fitting theme of the book.

Purdue Owl In-text Citation Help Guide:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

Purdue Owl MLA Works Cited Page Help Guide:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_sample_works_cited_page.html

Suggested Essay Format:

- **Introduction:** Introduce the name of the author, title of the book (in italics) and the main plot point of the book, followed by a summary of the book itself, an introduction of the theme that is most prominent or important, followed by a thesis statement (which will say “the [insert theme] of [insert book title] is most important due to [insert reasons or writing techniques here].”
- **Body Paragraphs:** Each body paragraph will begin with a direct topic sentence that previews the topic that will be covered in the body paragraph. Each body paragraph will include one direct quote from the book that proves or represents the theme chosen. All paraphrased, quoted, or summarized material will be in-text cited using MLA.
- **Conclusion:** Will begin with a restatement of the thesis statement, followed by a summary of the paper’s main points, and then discuss why readers need to know or read about the theme and the book itself—what do they gain by reading this book? Why might the writer choose to write about the theme?

Book List

Nathaniel Hawthorne- *The Scarlet Letter*

Barbara Kingsolver- *The Poisonwood Bible*

Barbara Kingsolver- *The Bean Trees*

William Faulkner- *As I Lay Dying*

Jane Austen- *Pride and Prejudice*

Virginia Woolf- *Mrs. Dalloway*

Ernest Hemmingway- *The Sun Also Rises*

Ernest Hemmingway- *Farewell to Arms*

Tim O'Brian- *The Things They Carried*

E.M. Forster- *A Room with a View*

Shakespeare- *Hamlet*

Shakespeare- *King Lear*

Shakespeare- *The Tempest*

John Steinbeck- *Grapes of Wrath*

Henry Melville- *Moby Dick*

George Orwell- *1984*

H.G. Wells- *The Time Machine*

Alice Walker- *The Color Purple*

Julia Alvarez- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*

Julia Alvarez- *In the Time of Butterflies*