

10th Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: For this summer reading assignment, you are tasked with choosing a book from the following list and then creating an interactive Google Slides or Canva.com “presentation” notebook detailing your notes about each chapter. After concluding this pre-writing step, you will write an essay that interprets the larger meaning of the book (what is the book really about? What is the author really trying to say about the theme?) This essay will be no more than five pages long and will include an introduction with a thesis statement at the end, body paragraphs, a conclusion, and a Works Cited page.

Journal Entry Directions: For each chapter, choose one of the elements listed below—find a quote that represents the chosen element for that chapter with an MLA in-text citation. Each slide = one chapter (but can certainly use multiple slides for a single chapter or section of book if needed). After that identification, you are to write an entry that **fully** discusses the prompt and your own personal reflection of it. These entries are to be a minimum of five sentences—no exceptions.

Journal Entry Notes: The notes you take will include one of the following elements:

- **Key character names and descriptions**
 - Whether they are static or dynamic characters and why
- **Setting**
 - Descriptions and reflection of what role it plays in the plot’s actions, or significance of the setting itself.
- **Plot: Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution.**
 - How the plot progresses, what specific event falls within each category and hoe.
- **Theme of your choosing**
 - A theme is a universal experience, thought, or idea: love, hate, individuality, etc.
- **Writing techniques such as metaphor, simile and their meaning.**
- **Symbolism**
 - How an object or other item may represent a larger meaning, such as an image of a skull repeatedly may mean death.
- **Important Dialogue**
 - Dialogue that is important to the overall meaning of the book, the plot, or the characterization.

Please note that you may not repeat the same entry again and again, you must rotate these entries according to what is appropriate for the chapter you are reading. For instance, if the setting is not described in a chapter, then it would not be appropriate for you to discuss the setting for that journal entry.

Essay Directions: After completing your “notebook,” you will begin writing your analysis essay. Your analysis essay will argue for a theme and message about the theme. It will be academically written. It will include no contractions, no slang, and no pronouns (“I” or “You”).

Essay Outline:

Introduction: The introduction to your essay will not begin with a “hook,” rhetorical question, or quote. Instead, your introduction’s first sentence should simply identify the book and author. Following that, your introduction will provide a thorough summary of the book’s major characters and plot with MLA in-text citation. You will end your introduction with a thesis statement that follows this format:

“Ultimately, AUTHOR’S LAST NAME uses THEME to discuss MESSAGE.

Note: a theme is a universal idea, often abstract (say, love, for instance). Meanwhile, an author’s message is what they are trying to say about the theme

ex.: Woods uses the theme of love to discuss the importance (and unfortunate lack) of human compassion.

Body Paragraphs: The rest of your essay will be supporting your interpretation of the author’s message with passages, summaries, and paraphrasing from the book. You will begin each body paragraph with a transition word and topic sentence. You will cite all referenced or quoted information with MLA in-text citations. Your body paragraphs should provide thorough evidence from the chosen text that demonstrates and supports the theme you identify in your thesis statement. For each quote, you should introduce it, cite it, and explain & connect it to your argument.

Conclusion: The conclusion should begin with a rewording of your thesis statement. Following that sentence, you should summarize your main points of the essay. After each point, you should remind the reader why that evidence supports the thesis statement. After this summary, you should extend your conversation—why is this important? What does it show readers? What does it add to the overall meaning of the text, or to society in general?

Works Cited page will be included at the end of the essay on its own separate page.

For more information regarding message and theme, please look here: [What's The Difference Between A Message And A Theme? \(rumie.org\)](https://www.rumie.org/what-is-the-difference-between-a-message-and-a-theme/)

For a refresher on MLA format, please look here: [MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics // Purdue Writing Lab](https://writinglab.purdue.edu/2018/01/mla-in-text-citations-the-basics/)

Book List:

Something Wicked This Way Comes- Ray Bradbury

Haunting of Hill House- Shirley Jackson

Dracula- Bram Stoker

Portrait of Dorian Grey- Oscar Wilde

Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde- Robert Louis Stevenson

I Am Legend -Richard Matheson

The Graveyard Book- Neil Gaiman