

Summer Reading 2011

E Cubed Academy

Summer Reading List 2011

Language!

N/A

Introduction to Literary Studies (Choose one) (9th)

Fever 1793 (Anderson)

“During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.” – Barnes & Noble

The Trial (Kafka)

“Written in 1914, **The Trial** is the terrifying tale of Josef K., a respectable bank officer who is suddenly arrested and must defend himself against a charge about which he can get no information. Kafka's nightmare has resonated with chilling truth for generations of readers.” – Barnes & Noble

World Literature (10th and 11th)

Don Quixote (Cervantes)

Cervantes tells the story of the adventures of Don Quixote by way of a fictional Moorish chronicler named Cide Hamete Benengeli. The protagonist of the book is Alonso Quixano (or Quijano), a retired country gentleman nearing 50 years of age, who lives in an unnamed section of La Mancha with his niece and a housekeeper. He has become obsessed with books of chivalry, and believes their every word to be true, despite the fact that many of the events in them are clearly impossible. Quixano eventually appears to other people to have lost his mind due to lack of sleep and food from dedicating all of his time to reading.

American Literature (choose one) (12th)

***A Raisin in the Sun* – a play (Hansberry)**

When it was first produced in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for that season and hailed as a watershed in American drama. A pioneering work by an African-American playwright, the play was a radically new representation of black life. "A play that changed American theater forever."

***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (Chbosky)**

This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating.

***Catalyst* (Anderson)**

Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

Advanced Placement Language (11th or 12th)

***Frankenstein* (Shelley)**

A monster assembled by a scientist from parts of dead bodies develops a mind of his own as he learns to loathe himself and hate his creator.

Summer Reading Assignment

The intent of this summer reading list is to support students and classroom instruction during the first quarter of the school year. Students must read 1 of the books listed for their grade level. We encourage students to review their choice with their parents (and if possible their teachers). Since some texts may contain mature content, we suggest that parents assist their child in making appropriate choices.

All books must be read by the first week of school. During early September, students will be expected to write and talk about their book in their English class. Students should keep a record of their reading in a reader's notebook, as they will be permitted to use such written work in completing their in-class assessment. A written assessment will be given by the English teacher will serve as the student's first test grade and will be incorporated into the student's first quarter average. Students may want to purchase their books so that they may annotate the texts for future reference. They may also wish to check out their local library.

Assignment:

Keep a reader's notebook. The number of entries will vary depending on the length of the text. Students should plan to record an entry after every 20 pages. For each entry record a quotation and write a paragraph of reaction. The paragraph should be approximately eight sentences long.

In writing the paragraph of reaction you should respond to one or more of these questions:

- How does the quotation relate to another part of the book?
- How does the quotation relate to your life?
- How does the quotation relate to another book you have read?
- Why does the quotation sound important to you?
- Why is this particular character, scene or statement important?

Example 1:

- “Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don’t belong no place. . With us it ain’t like that. We got a future. We got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us. We don’t have to sit in no bar room blowin’ in our jack jus’ because we got no place else to go. If them other guys gets in jail they can rot for all anybody gives a damn. But not us.” (p. 7).
- In this passage, George explains his friendship with Lennie. Steinbeck, the author of *Of Mice & Men*, suggests that people are at their best when they have someone else to look to for guidance and protection. George reminds Lennie that they are extremely lucky to have each other since most men do not have real friends. Their bond is made to seem especially rare and I wonder why this is so. I have always thought that guys are more likely to stick together and to help each other out. They have always seemed to be different than females who are always talking about one another.

Example 2:

- “I hope she’ll be a fool—that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.” (p. 20)
- Daisy is describing to Nick and Jordan her hopes for her infant daughter. This quote gives the reader a glimpse into Daisy’s character. Daisy is the product of a social environment that does not value intelligence in women. The older generation values women who follow directions and the younger generation values thoughtlessness and pleasure-seeking. I think Daisy is a fool because she does not seem to challenge either generation. She just describes her own boredom with life and seems to suggest that a girl can have more fun if she is beautiful and simple, not smart and independent. She simple conforms to the social standard of American femininity in the 1920s and it may very well be because of *Gatsby*.