

Advanced English II Summer Assignments 2011

C. Day Lewis: We do not write in order to be understood; we write in order to understand.

Welcome to Advanced English II. I am looking forward to a productive and enlightening year. By signing up for this course, you have chosen to take a more challenging and rigorous course than your peers. Be prepared to put in consistent effort as we explore and analyze great works of literature. Choosing to take an advanced English course should mean you enjoy literature for the sake of literature – that you welcome literature assignments and discussions!

You have two readings and assignments to complete over the summer. The written work is due the first day of school (August 24, 2011) and will be your first grades of the semester. You will NOT be allowed to drop from the course if you don't complete the work – you will just have a very low grade.

1. Choose ONE of these novels: *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque, or *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. These novels address how individuals and groups are affected by threats to society. **Assignment:** Respond to 10 quotations chosen from **throughout** the novel. In your writing, you can address both your personal reasons for choosing the quotation or passage and how the quotation is written, how it helps with the characterization, how it fits into the plot, how it relates to a theme or themes, etc. DO NOT simply summarize the book; I've read it, and I know what happens. Your responses should total approximately 2200 words. Remember, a quotation can be anything from the book, not just dialog. Please review this sample quotation response:

Reading Log Sample: a response to *The Plague* by Albert Camus

Quotation: "...Rieux was caught off his guard, and we should understand his hesitations in the light of this fact; and similarly understand how he was torn between conflicting fears and confidence. When a war breaks out, people say: 'It's too stupid; it can't last long.' But though a war may we'll be 'too stupid', that doesn't prevent its lasting." Pg. 34

Response (partial): I thought it was interesting how he compared the plague to a war, considering he wrote this only a few years after the end of WWII. Actually, now that I think about it, the entire course of the plague could be seen as a metaphor for war. In Europe when Hitler was massing up military power, I don't think a great many people were concerned about war. But just like the plague, it will come never-the-less, and just take a larger toll on all the disbelievers.

2. Choose ONE of these novels: *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, or *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. **Assignment:** Use 5 related quotations in a creative way: write a story with a similar theme, write a continuation or new ending, write a scene that doesn't appear in the novel, or create a visual representation or video of a theme. All written work should be 800+ words and should model the style of your novel; if you create a visual project, include a 250+ word explanation. You will be sharing your work in class during the first week. N.B. I am not a fan of PowerPoint or collages, so they will need to be extremely well done in order to get a high score. And, please, no large posters.

I hope you have a stimulating summer and enjoy these assignments. You can email questions to lunstrothc@cabrillo.k12.ca.us or mccartneys@cabrillo.k12.ca.us

I have school copies that you can check out of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, and *The Bluest Eye*. If possible, you should purchase your own copies of the assigned books so that you can write in them to highlight important ideas and quotations as you read. If you cannot purchase the books, I recommend you use sticky notes. You will want to have copies of the books at the beginning of the year, so please keep that in mind if you are going to use library copies.