

AHS Independent Reading Assignment / 2020-2021

Students taking Honors English are required to complete the independent reading assignment.

Commented [1]: +gia.russell@acs-k12.org we think it's ready!
Assigned to Gia Russell

The summer reading assignment will be divided into two sections.

	Part I	Part II
CONTENT	Novel test consisting of question topics including (but not limited to) plot, point of view, main characters, setting, theme, and title <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open book/open note• Must be completed in one class period	Research writing assignment covering the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Author and his/her times• Critical review analysis• Reflection on the novel's impact and content.
DUE DATE	3RD WEEK OF CLASS **Tentative Dates**: FALL: September 7-11 SPRING: February 1-5	FIRST PROGRESS REPORT OF FIRST 9-WEEK PERIOD **Tentative Dates**: FALL: September 9, 2020 SPRING: February 3, 2021
POINT DISTRIBUTION	200 points / 1st 9-weeks grade	200 points / 2nd 9-weeks grade <u>SEE ATTACHED RUBRICS</u>

Standards Addressed:

- RL 8.1 / RL 9-10.1
- RL 8.2 / RL 9-10.2
- RI 8.1 / RI 9-10.1
- RI 8.2 / RI 9-10.2
- RI 8.6 / RI 9-10.6
- W 8.6 / W 9-10.6
- W 8.7 / W 9-10.7
- W 8.8 / W 9-10.8
- W 8.9 / W 9-10.9
- L 8.1 / L 9-10.1
- L 8.2 / L 9-10.

Assignment Details

The assignment requires students to choose one selection from the list (see the last page of this document), read it independently, and complete a two-part assignment, consisting of an assessment and research analyses. See rubrics for evaluation guidelines.

Students are strongly encouraged to read and complete research assignments (Part II) during the summer to allow for revision and editing the first three weeks of school. The independent reading assignment counts as two major test grades, which will be distributed evenly across two terms. The test (Part I) will count as 200 points on the first 9-week grading period while the research assignment (Part II) will be reported for the 2nd 9-weeks grading period of their English term.

Students must submit an electronic version of the assignment in Canvas; be advised, this will be checked for plagiarism via TurnItIn.

***** PART I: Respond to FOUR (4) Short Answer/Essay Questions addressing the following literary elements: point of view, main characters, setting, and theme . *****

For Part I, you will be given four (4) question prompts to complete in one class period. These prompts will provide students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the reading selection and the writing norms learned during the first three weeks of 9th grade Honors English.

***** PART II RESEARCH: Complete research about the author, analyze a critical review of the selection, and respond to the selection. *****

For Part 2, you are required to do the following:

- Type the assignment in **MLA format**: double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, appropriate header, heading, Works Cited page (only one at the end of the assignment), and in-text citations.
- Be sure to cite primary source with in-text citations and on the Works Cited page.
- Label both sections with the proper heading; present them in order of the assignment.
- Follow all of the standards for proper conventions (grammar, spelling, mechanics). Be sure to run your assignment through a grammar/spell check. The maximum score for a paper that has a distracting number of errors will be a "C."

1. THE AUTHOR AND HER/HIS TIMES: Provide a biographical and historical analysis of the author as related to the novel. What important family, community, national, and world events experienced by the author helped inform the material? Provide a biography focusing on the details that can be directly linked to the novel in a manner that is convincing. This assignment is related to historical criticism, which suggests that a novel must be understood first in the historical context (both of the culture and of the author) in which it was written. In order to complete this assignment, outside research is required; please remember to only use academic sources and proper citation. All sources should come from Alabama Virtual Library or Google Scholar (instruction provided during the first week of school for students with no experience with these resources). **This section should be a minimum of 1 full page in length.**

2. CRITICAL REVIEW: Select a critical review of your novel (we have provided a selection of reviews that you may choose from) and offer your opinion of the critic's analysis. When expressing your response to the review, be specific in your discussion. If you agree, explain why, and carry the argument beyond what the critic pointed out. If you disagree, provide support for your position from the text. **This section should be a minimum of 1 page in length.** Attach a copy of the critical review to your paper after the Works Cited page,.

*All critical reviews must come from the Alabama Virtual Library or Google Scholar.

** A book review is not a critical review; critical reviews are from peer reviewed publications/journals and are written by literary experts.

3. FINAL NOVEL REFLECTION/FUTURE DISCUSSION: Choose one pivotal/important/thought provoking moment in the book that would make an interesting class discussion. Provide a detailed overview of the scene/context and a **thematic question** for future class discussion. Then, answer your own question **THOROUGHLY with a minimum of 300 words.**

Part II Rubric:

1. THE AUTHOR AND HIS/HER TIMES: (20 points possible) Total points: _____
/20

9-10 pts: meets expectations for	5 pts: all sources and Works Cited page are	5 pts: Overall quality of assignment
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assignment; directly and convincingly links information to novel	correctly documented using MLA format without error	exceeds ALL expectations.
7-8 pts: mostly meets expectations for assignment; most information is directly linked to novel	4 pts: most sources and Works Cited page correctly documented using MLA format; no more than 1-2 errors	4 pts: Overall quality of assignment meets ALL expectations.
5-6 pts: somewhat meets expectations for assignment; information is presented but has little link to novel	3 pts: some sources and Works Cited page correctly documented using MLA format; significant errors	3 pts: Overall quality of assignment meets most expectations.
1-4 pts: partially meets expectations but lacks enough information and/or links to novel; not Honors level work	2 pts significant errors in Works Cited & in-text citations and/or MLA format; not Honors quality work	2 pts Overall quality of assignment meets many expectations, but is not Honors quality work.
0 pts: does not attempt	1 pt unacceptable; minimal attention to formatting of Works Cited and/or MLA in-text citations	1 pt Overall quality of assignment is not Honors quality work. Unacceptable (limited attempt to complete assignment).

2. CRITICAL REVIEW: (20 points possible)

Total points: _____

/20

9-10 pts: meets expectations for assignment. Discussed agreement or disagreement of critic's analysis with in-depth and specific personal reflection on the novel	5 pts: all sources and Works Cited page are correctly documented using MLA format without error	5 pts: Overall quality of assignment exceeds ALL expectations.
7-8 pts: mostly meets expectations for assignment. Discussed agreement or disagreement of critic's analysis with specific personal reflection on the novel	4 pts: most sources and Works Cited page correctly documented using MLA format; no more than 1-2 errors	4 pts: Overall quality of assignment meets ALL expectations.
5-6 pts: somewhat meets expectations for assignment. Discussed agreement or disagreement of critic's analysis but needs more specificity and in-depth analysis	3 pts: some sources and Works Cited page correctly documented using MLA format; significant errors	3 pts: Overall quality of assignment meets most expectations.
1-4 pts: partially meets expectations for assignment but opinion of critic's analysis and level of agreement and/or textual support is limited; not Honors level work.	2 pts significant errors in Works Cited & in-text citations and/or MLA format; not Honors quality work	2 pts Overall quality of assignment meets many expectations, but is not Honors quality work.
0 pts: does not attempt	1 pt Unacceptable; minimal attention to formatting of Works Cited and/or MLA in-text citations	1 pt Overall quality of assignment is not Honors quality work. Unacceptable (limited attempt to complete assignment).

3. PIVOTAL DISCUSSION POINT:

Total points: _____

/10

Explore pivotal moment from novel.	Original discussion question for class	Answers own question as applied to novel
5-6 pts: meets expectations for assignment/question asked	2 pts: meets expectations for assignment/question asked	2 pts: thorough response to original question that relates to novel selection
3-4 pts: somewhat meets expectations for assignment/question asked	1 pt: questions presented is not thematic and/or requires basic, limited answer	1 pt: basic response to question posed/answer vaguely applies to novel
1-2 pts: partially meets expectations but offers little personal insight	0 pts: does not attempt	0 pts: does not attempt
0 pts: does not attempt		

TOTAL _____ x

Freshman Independent Reading Assignment Selections / 2020-2021

Students are strongly encouraged to research topics and themes of the selections, as well as the genre of the selections, before choosing.

- ***House of the Scorpion* - Nancy Farmer (660 Lexile)**

- With undertones of vampires, Frankenstein, dragons' hoards, and killing fields, Matt's story turns out to be an inspiring tale of friendship, survival, hope, and transcendence. A must-read for teenage fantasy fans.

At his coming-of-age party, Matteo Alacrán asks El Patrón's bodyguard, "How old am I?...I know I don't have a birthday like humans, but I was born." "You were harvested," Tam Lin reminds him. "You were grown in that poor cow for nine months and then you were cut out of her."

To most people around him, Matt is not a boy but a beast. A room full of chicken litter with roaches for friends and old chicken bones for toys is considered good enough for him. But for El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium--a strip of poppy fields lying between the U.S. and what was once called Mexico--Matt is a guarantee of eternal life. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, for Matt is himself. They share identical DNA.

- ***The Book Thief* - Markus Zusak (730 Lexile)**

- It's just a small story really about, among other things, a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery ...

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist--books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

- ***A Lesson Before Dying* - Ernest Gaines (750 Lexile)**

- *A Lesson Before Dying* is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting and defying the expected. Ernest J. Gaines brings to this novel the same rich sense of place, the same deep understanding of the human psyche, and the same compassion for a people and their struggle that have informed his previous, highly praised works of fiction.

- ***The Secret Life of Bees* - Sue Monk Kidd (840 Lexile)**

- Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina, a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

Goodreads Family of Sites.(n.d.), www.goodreads.com. Accessed 13 Mar. 2018