

Sophomore Honors Summer Reading and Writing

It is the English Department's assumption that students who register for the Honors English program have a love of reading and writing. Consequently, you will be reading two novels before class starts, one assigned and one that you will choose from a list. For each novel, you will be completing a double-entry journal, which is explained below.

This summer, you will read *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. This novel takes the reader into pre-colonial Nigeria and the rich tribal culture of the Ibo people. While the story focuses on the personal struggles of its protagonist, it also portrays the clash of cultures as Christian missionaries begin to appear in the Ibo villages in the late 1800's to early 1900's. The title of the novel is from the poem "The Second Coming" by W.B. Yeats, printed on the back side of this paper.

While reading, you must keep a **typed two-columned double-entry journal** that will be collected on the first day of class. **See format, attached.** In the left-hand column **choose and type up five passages** from the novel that capture meaningful ideas, or meaningful moments, in the novel. *You may note as many passages as you like, but turn in only your best five.* Be sure to indicate page numbers. In the second column, write your response to the quote. Your responses could include comments on how the quote ties in with certain themes, what the quote says about a character, or the how the author achieved a certain effect. Throughout the novel you will find many proverbs, communicating the values and beliefs of the Ibo people. Choose one of these proverbs for at least one of your five quotes. Your double-entry journal is due the first day of class; you will be using your quotes to support an essay about the novel during that first week.

Attached is a list of authors. Next year you will be analyzing the literature of one of these writers by reading a minimum of three of his/her novels. You will need to read one novel by your chosen author before the class starts, and as with *Things Fall Apart*, you will be creating a double-entry journal for that novel, with five selected quotes, with page numbers, and your responses to them. This double-entry journal also must be handed in on the first day of class. **Please choose your author before the start of summer vacation and let me know of your choice.** No more than two students may study the same author, so it is "first come, first served."

To summarize, over the summer, you are required to...

- 1. read *Things Fall Apart* and complete a double-entry journal with five entries.**
- 2. be prepared to write an in-class essay about *Things Fall Apart*, using some of your quotes for support.**
- 3. read one novel by the author of your choice and complete a double entry journal with five entries.**

The Second Coming
by William Butler Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

Source: *The Collected Poems of W. B. Yeats* (1989)

Double Entry Journal Format (for *TFA* and chosen novel)

Name

Class

Date

Title of Novel

Passage and Page Number	Response
Quote 1:	My Response to Quote (What does this quote communicate? Consider character, theme, author's craft/style, symbolism, irony, etc.).
Quote 2:	
Quote 3:	
Quote 4:	

Quote 5:	
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Reading List: Honors English 2

To meet Honors reading requirements, you must select one author from the list below and read at least three of his/her works. You will be reading the other two novels while you take Honors English 2. Next school year/semester, you will be writing a critical analysis of the author's fiction. **Before the start of the course, you must read one novel by your author and complete a double-entry journal that contains at least five quotes from the novel, including page numbers, and your response to each quote.**

Next to each author is the title of only a few of his/her novels. You may read any novel written by the author of your choice, but it is helpful to stick to novels that have critical commentary to support an analysis of the novel.

Helpful Suggestions:

- Attempt to skim quickly through the first pages of the novel to make sure that the writing style of the author and/or subject matter is appealing to you.
- Once you decide, purchase the novel so that you can highlight/annotate your reading.
- As you read, be looking for appropriate quotes, to save you work later. Note: Quotes are any lines taken directly from the novel. They may be description, characterization, dialogue, etc.

Classics

F. Scott Fitzgerald (*Tender is the Night*—any novel besides *The Great Gatsby*)

Ernest Hemingway (*The Old Man and the Sea*; *The Sun Also Rises*; *For Whom the Bell Tolls*)

Charles Dickens (*A Tale of Two Cities*, *Oliver Twist*; *Our Mutual Friend*; *A Christmas Carol*;))

John Steinbeck (*Of Mice and Men*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *Cannery Row*)

Edith Wharton (*Ethan Frome*; *The Age of Innocence*; *The House of Mirth*)

Carson McCullers (*Ballad of the Sad Café*; *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*; *The Member of the Wedding*)

Albert Camus (*The Plague; A Happy Death; Exile and the Kingdom* *anything EXCEPT *The Stranger*)
Willa Cather (*My Antonia; O Pioneers; My Mutual Enemy*)
Charlotte Bronte (*Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights*)
George Eliot (*Daniel Deronda; Middlemarch; Silas Marner; The Mill on the Floss*)
Mark Twain (*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; The Prince and the Pauper*)

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Isaac Asimov (*Foundation Trilogy; I Robot; The Bicentennial Man*)
Ray Bradbury (*Something Wicked This Way Comes; Martian Chronicles; Dandelion Wine*)
Arthur C. Clarke (*2001: A Space Odyssey; 2010: Odyssey Two; 3001: The Final Odyssey*)
Robert Heinlein (*Stranger in a Strange Land; The Moon is a Harsh Mistress; Starship Troopers*)
Frank Herbert (*Dune*; Note: there are many novels in the Dune series)
Ursula Leguin (*Earthsea*-- a series of fantasy novels; The Hainish Cycle – a series of science fiction-based novels)
H.G. Wells (*The War of the Worlds; The Food of the Gods; The Invisible Man*)
Raymond Fesit (The “Wizard” Series)
Tad Williams (*The Dragonbone Chair* [Memory, Sorrow and Thorn Trilogy]; *Otherland* series)

Contemporary Authors

Amy Tan (*Joy Luck Club; Saving Fish From Drowning; The Hundred Secret Senses*)
Cormac McCarthy (*All the Pretty Horses; The Road; No Country for Old Men*)
John Irving (*The World According to Garp; Ciderhouse Rules; A Prayer for Owen Meany*)
Kurt Vonnegut (*The Breakfast of Champions; Cat’s Cradle; Slaughterhouse Five*)
Pat Conroy (*The Prince of Tides; The Great Santini; Beach Music*)
Larry McMurry (*Lonesome Dove; Horseman, Pass By; Comanche Moon*)
Herman Wouk (*The Winds of War; The Caine Mutiny; War and Remembrance*)
Anne Tyler (*Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant; Breathing Lessons; The Accidental Tourist*)

Ethnic Studies

James Baldwin (*Go Tell It on the Mountain; Going to Meet the Man; If Beale St. Could Talk*)
Ralph Ellison (*The Invisible Man*)
Richard Wright (*Native Son; Uncle Tom’s Children; The Outsider*)
Toni Morrison (*Sula; The Bluest Eye; Tar Baby; Beloved; Jazz*)
Zora Neal Hurston (*Their Eyes Are Watching God; Jonah’s Gourd Vine*)
Michael Dorris (*Yellow Raft on Blue Water; Cloud Chamber; Guests*)

Garcia Marquez (*Love in the Time of Cholera; One Hundred Years of Solitude; The Autumn of the Patriarch*)

Louise Erdrich (*The Beet Queen; Love Medicine; Tracks*)

Sherman Alexie (*Reservation Blues, Ten Little Indians, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*)

If you really want to read an author who isn't listed, let me know as soon as possible; I'll approve it or disapprove it before summer begins.

Be sure to let me know which author you've chosen prior to summer break!

---Mr. Davis

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