

Honors British Literature – Jill Swanson Summer Reading Assignments

Due: First day of the 2017-2018 School Year (regardless your scheduled semester)

Over the summer each Honors British Literature student is required to read a total of **two** notable literary works, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Pygmalion*, as well as to complete the attached data sheets. The required works will serve as a basis for classroom discussions and activities throughout the year. Students' knowledge of these works will be assessed through **both** written work and small-group activities the first few weeks of the semester.

Required Readings:

The Picture of Dorian Gray (920L) by Oscar Wilde (philosophical fiction - Victorianism/Modernism)
In this celebrated work, his only novel, Wilde forged a devastating portrait of the effects of evil and debauchery on a young aesthete in late-19th-century England. Combining elements of the Gothic horror novel and decadent French fiction, the book centers on a striking premise: As Dorian Gray sinks into a life of crime and gross sensuality, his body retains perfect youth and vigor while his recently painted portrait grows day by day into a hideous record of evil, which he must keep hidden from the world. For over a century, this mesmerizing tale of horror and suspense has enjoyed wide popularity. It ranks as one of Wilde's most important creations and among the classic achievements of its kind. (summary from amazon.com)

Pygmalion (1340L) by George B. Shaw (Romantic comedy/Social criticism/drama - Modernism)
Pygmalion is considered to be one of George Bernard Shaw's greatest works. It is the story of how the arrogant phonetics professor Henry Higgins teaches the lowly flower girl Eliza Doolittle to lose her cockney accent and speak like a lady. *Pygmalion* is a witty comedic play that examines the artificiality of social class distinctions and shows that it takes more than just talking like a lady to become one. (summary from amazon.com)

**** REMINDER ****

The attached assignments are due on the first day of the 2017-2018 school year REGARDLESS which semester you are scheduled to take the class. Points will be deducted each day the assignments are late. Be sure that all of your work is **your own**. When you write your assignments, you are personally guaranteeing that it is an idea of your own creation. Imitating the language, thought, idea, or expression of another human (either in-person or over-the-internet) and representing it as your own original work is an intellectual, academic, and moral failure. You must use **MLA formatting*** citations to properly credit the information that you use; using citations REQUIRES a Works Cited page. Your work is subject to submission into turnitin.com, an online plagiarism checker. Zeroes, referrals, and removal from honor courses are all reasonable consequences for an individual who chooses to cheat without crediting the source. The best way is the most sincere one: set aside quiet time to clear your head, read carefully, think deeply, and write honestly.

***MLA formatting** will be required for writings in this class. Learn it and grow accustomed to it.

Honors British Literature – Novel Entry (*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde)

1. **Title:** Write and highlight the title and explain the significance to the themes of the novel.
2. **Biographical sketch:** Give a short biographical sketch of the author and his times. In particular, note items which are relevant to ones understanding of the novel. Make sure to add your bibliographical citation.
3. **Theme Statement:** As succinctly as possible, state the primary theme of the novel. Choose one word to describe the text and then add a positive or negative message surrounding it. Your theme statement should be a sentence.
4. **Narrative Style:** Define “narrative style”, and then identify, describe and explain the significance of the narrative style to the understanding of the novel.
5. **Characters:**
 - A. Major / Dynamic: Identify each major character and, for each, give:
 - a. Description (emotional and physical)
 - b. Function (why is the character in the story?)
 - c. Revelation (How is the character revealed to the reader?)
 - B. Minor / Static: Identify minor characters and, for each, give:
 - a. Description
 - b. Function
6. **Setting:** Describe and explain the significance of the setting. Include reference to such significant items as time, place and situation.
7. **Plot:** Identify:
 - A. Opening incident
 - B. Building Incidents/Rising action
 - C. Climax
 - D. Falling Action and Resolution
8. **Quotations:** Select (and cite page numbers for) at least **five** quotes which characterize the novel.
9. **Additional Comments:** In one paragraph, tell me what you think of the novel.

Honors British Literature – Drama Entry (*Pygmalion* by Charles Bernard Shaw)

1. **Title:** Write and highlight the title and explain its significance to the themes explored.
2. **Biographical sketch:** Give a short biographical sketch of the author and his times, particularly noting the parallels that are relevant to one's understanding of the play. Make sure to add your bibliographical citation.
3. **Characters:**
 - A. Major / Dynamic: Identify each major character and, for each, give:
 - a. Description (emotional and physical)
 - b. Function (why is the character in the story?)
 - c. Revelation (How is the character revealed to the reader?)
 - B. Minor / Static: Identify minor characters and, for each, give:
 - a. Description
 - b. Function
4. Identify the major **subject** and **conflict** in the play.
5. **Plot:** Identify:
 - A. Opening incident
 - B. Building Incidents/Rising action
 - C. Climax
 - D. Falling action and resolution
6. **Setting:** Describe and explain the significance of the setting. Include reference to such significant items as time, place and situation.
7. **Thematic Statement:** As succinctly as possible, state the primary theme of the play by creating a thematic statement.
8. If you were staging the play, what significant **directions** would you give?
9. **Quotations:** Select (and cite page numbers for) at least **five** quotes which characterize the play.
10. **Additional Comments:** In one paragraph, tell me what you think of the play.

Dear Honors / AP Students and Parents,

Please understand that in every Honors and AP level English Language Arts (ELA) course at Cook High School, students are responsible for summer reading. These summer reading assignments are distributed on the last week of the semester, and students are responsible for obtaining this assignment from their respective ELA teacher. This year, we are dispersing the assignment at the end of **both** semesters. For your convenience, these assignments will also be posted on the CHS website by the first week of June in case students have misplaced the copy distributed. Every student will be expected to come to school having completed their summer reading.

Please cut off the **Summer Reading Acknowledgement Contract** below and return this signed and dated contract to Mrs. Swanson ASAP.



Summer Reading Acknowledgement Contract

I _____ (student's printed name) understand that reading both literary works is required for Honors British Literature in which I will be enrolled next year. I will read these works during the summer break, and I know my study of these books will be evaluated for class credit regardless which semester I am enrolled. I understand the due date is **the first day of the 2017-2018 school year, and points will be deducted each day it is late.**

Student Signature _____

Date: _____

Parent/ Guardian Acknowledgement:

I have read this information regarding summer reading for Honors British Literature. I understand the requirements and evaluation process for this Honors English Language Arts class.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date: _____