



Summer Reading Assignment for 9th Grade Pre-AICE English 1

Required Reading:

Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Assignment 1: Journal Response Assignment

Journal Response Assignment (Both Novels): After each chapter, you read you will need to write a personal response to the novel. Each response needs to deal with how you reacted to the journey the protagonist is taking you on. How did this portion of the novel make you feel? Did you have any thoughts prior to reading this portion that were contradicted? Do you have any predictions for the characters? Do you know people like these characters? Do the events or characters relate to your world in anyway, etc? How you react is not the important part of this assignment- the most important aspect of this assignment is that you react. Your response should be no more than ½ page per chapter. ¼ page per response is ideal.

Assignment 2:

Essay Assignments: (Pick one novel to write about)

Ethan Frome Question:

To what extent does Wharton encourage you to sympathize with Ethan? Support your ideas with detail from the novel.

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings Question:

Explain the effects of insecurity in the novel.

In answering the above questions, you must demonstrate that you understand the following:

1. Communicate a sensitive and informed personal response to literary text. (this is your opinion/interpretation)
2. Understand the meanings of the text beyond the surface. (author's purpose and implications)
3. Recognize ways in which the writer uses language, structure and form to create and shape meaning and effects. (tone, point of view, pun, alliteration, malapropisms, imagery, other literary techniques, etc)
4. Knowledge of the text through the use of close reference to details and use of quotations.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of characters, relationships, situations and themes.

Assignment Length: Writing must be between 600-1000 words in length each; typed.

Grade descriptions (40 Point Assignment)

Grade A (40-36 points)

A Grade A candidate will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. sustain a perceptive and convincing response with well-chosen detail of narrative and situation;
2. demonstrate clear critical/analytical understanding of the author's intentions and the text's deeper implications and the attitudes it displays;
3. make much well-selected reference to the text;
4. respond sensitively and in detail to the way language works in the text;
5. communicate a considered and reflective personal response to the text.

Grade C (28-31 points)

A Grade C candidate will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. make a reasonably sustained/extended response with detail of narrative and situation;
2. show understanding of the author's intentions and some of the text's deeper implications and the attitudes it displays;
3. show some thoroughness in use of the text for support;
4. make some response to the way language works in the text;
5. communicate an informed personal response to the text.

Grade F (0-23 points)

A Grade F candidate will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. make a few straightforward points in terms of narrative and situation;
2. show a few signs of understanding of the author's intentions and the surface meanings of the text;
3. make a little reference to the text;
4. show evidence of a simple personal response to the text.

Writing Checklist

Make sure you check the following aspects in your writing before turning in a final draft and you will guarantee yourself a great paper.

1. Do you have a strong thesis?
2. Does your introduction preview your points without just listing them?
3. Are you supporting your thesis with strong evidence from the text?
4. Are you following your thesis throughout your writing?
5. Does each new idea/point have its own paragraph?
6. Do you have full transitional sentences that tie the paragraphs/ideas together?
7. Does your conclusion bring together all your points without simply repeating your introduction?
8. Are you addressing all the aspects of the assignment?

Points of caution:

- Make sure your tone fits the assignment
- Do not start sentences with the following words: And, But, Because
- Always plan before you begin writing. Writing suffers greatly when this is not done. In some cases assignments with no planning will not receive a grade higher than a C (these instances will be announced during class time when the assignment is given).
- Always revise a rough draft before turning in a final copy.

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MR. JOHNSON
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