

9/10 Honors English Summer 2023 Reading Assignment

- I. *Reader's Choice Novel (presentation in class in the week of August 21-25)*
 - a. Select and read a high-school level novel that you have not read before, and complete the assignment below.
 - i. Create a presentation of five slides (excluding title slide and Work Cited) with at least two primary source quotations on each content slide explaining why your classmates should read the novel. Include discussion of plot, main characters, and theme. (Plan your presentation with essential information on the slides and your speech written to offer additional information that doesn't appear—do not plan to read from your slides.)
 - ii. Presentations will be scheduled during class the week of **August 21-25**, and a presentation rubric will be provided **August 18**.
- II. *The Pearl (test grade—in-class essay Tuesday, August 29)*
 - a. Read *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck and make notes as you read (either in your copy or on paper listing the page number next to each comment/observation). Please note that you are not allowed to consult any outside sources including online summaries, Cliffs Notes, etc.
 - b. Consider what motivates the main character, Kino, and how he changes over the course of the novella. Examine how his experiences represent a universal truth (i.e. a message that applies to everyone). Make a list of quotations that support your observations.
 - c. Learn the basic MLA style rules and writing tips listed below to prepare to write your in-class essay.

MLA Style for Documenting Sources

MLA (Modern Language Association): a system for documenting sources often used in English and Humanities courses that recommends in-text citations that refer readers to a list of works cited in the essay. The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) is a good online resource for grammar, punctuation, and citation): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> (Choose MLA option.). In addition to formatting rules (Times New Roman, 12-pt. font and double-spacing throughout, etc.), MLA-style documentation requires the use of certain rules for inserting textual examples and references. Essentially, there are two parts to this system: in-text citation (for the examples from the novella to be included in your essay) and the Works Cited entry that provides publication information about the source.

In-text citation—names author and gives page number (Though there are many different ways to cite information, this model is the most common.):

John Steinbeck incorporates the main character's struggles to demonstrate the power of one's circumstances in shaping lifestyle (46).

**Check the Purdue OWL for other rules such as naming an author in a signal phrase rather than including the person's last name in the parenthetical citation.

Works Cited—In-text citations point to the source listed in the Works Cited. If you are citing only the novel (as you will for this assignment), list Work Cited at the top of the page and then include the entry using the model below.

Book Entry in the List of Works Cited

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Writing Tips

(for use on essays written at home but for consideration concerning in-class essays, too)

Work through your primary text (A primary text is the book or story you are discussing; secondary sources are the articles that comment on that book or story.)

- **Outline, Outline, Outline!** Microsoft Word has a great outline format—use it to show each major point of your argument and to make sure you have balanced support for each point. Outline ideas first, and then drop in primary source quotations. This method allows you to see whether you have balanced amounts of support for each part of your essay. Include parenthetical citations as you type so all you have to do is cut and paste them into your paper.
- **Maintain third-person point of view when possible.** Formal literary analysis typically requires third-person point of view. For example, you should avoid “reviewing” the work by saying that you enjoyed reading it or had a negative reaction. Instead, focus on answering the assignment's question directly and comment on how the work or author addresses an idea, etc. Avoid writing “I think” in order to strengthen your argument; instead, simply state the idea:
 - Jonathan Swift's “A Modest Proposal” presents an absurd idea under the cloak of a rational argument, highlighting an important issue in a rather twisted appeal to reason.