

American Literature Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Why are we doing a summer reading assignment?

- Honors lit is no joke. The course load is rigorous and the expectations are high. Thus, your summer assignment responses will give me some indication about who you are as a student. Through this assignment, I'll quickly find out
 - Who took their time with this and who rushed it
 - Who thinks deeply and whose thought process is basic and on the surface
 - Who rose to the challenge and who ran away

What skill are we focusing on?

- No matter what materials we read/view in class, two functions are extremely important:
 - Your ability to understand what you read (basic reading comprehension skills)
 - Your ability to think deeply about what you've read (not-so-basic analytical skills)

When is this due?

- Summer reading assignments are due on the 2nd day of school, Tuesday August 7th **at the start of your class period.** Your responses must be **typed, printed, and should adhere to MLA** guidelines (look up proper MLA if you're unsure; there are tons of online resources)
- **There will be zero exceptions or excuses granted for not submitting this assignment**

What is the assignment?

- Part One: Analyzing Music Videos
 - You'll analyze 5 of the following music videos listed below. For each video, you will write a 8-10 sentence response that answers the following questions
 - **Central Argument**
 - What is the central argument being made in the video?
 - What are 3 pieces of evidence from the video that let us know that this is the main argument?
 - How does each piece (in its own unique way) indicate that this is the central argument?
 - **Intended Audience**
 - Who is the intended audience?
 - What are 2 pieces of evidence from the video that let us know who the intended audience is?
 - **Artists Purpose**
 - What was the artists' purpose behind presenting this video?
 - What did the artist(s) want to do for his/her audience?
 - How do you know for sure that this is the purpose?
 - Video List → Choose 5 from the following (some videos may contain mature content. Please review with a parent/guardian before making your selection)
 - "This Is America" by Childish Gambino
 - "Formation" by Beyoncé
 - "ATM" by J. Cole
 - "Chandelier" by Sia
 - "Element" by Kendrick Lamar
 - "The Wall" Pink Floyd
 - "Jeremy" by Pearl Jam
 - "Stan" by Eminem
 - "Frozen" by Joyner Lucas
 - "Black Spiderman" by Logic
 - "Rocket Man" by Elton John
 - "Hurt" by Johnny Cash
 - "All You Need" by Radiohead
 - "How to Save A Life" by The Fray

- “Weapon of Choice” by Fatboy Slim
- “Losing My Religion” by REM
- “Black Hole Sun” by Soundgarden
- “Humble” by Kendrick Lamar
- “Family Feud” by Jay-Z
- “Til It’s Gone” by Yelawolf
- “Paper Planes” by MIA
- “Words I Never Said” by Lupe Fiasco
- “White Privilege 2” by Macklemore (there’s 2, so make sure you’re accessing the correct video)
- “Waterfalls” by TLC
- “Dirty Harry” by Gorillaz
- “Elastic Heart” by Sia
- “Crooked Smile” by J. Cole
- “Lazarus” by David Bowie
- “Make it Stop” by Rise Against
- “1800-273-8255” by Logic
- “Born in the USA” by Bruce Springsteen
- “Video Girl” by FKA Twigs
- “Slave to the Rhythm” by Grace Jones
- “Never Catch Me” by Flying Lotus
- “We didn’t Start the Fire” by Billy Joel

Part Two: Analyzing Short Stories

- You’ll analyze 3 of the following short stories listed below. For each short story, you will write an 8-10 sentence response that answers the following questions
 - **Central Argument**
 - What is the central argument being made in the story?
 - What are 3 pieces of evidence from the story that let us know that this is the main argument?
 - How does each piece (in its own unique way) indicate that this is the central argument?
 - **Intended Audience**
 - Who is the intended audience?
 - What are 2 pieces of evidence from the story that let us know who the intended audience is?
 - **Artists Purpose**
 - What was the author’s purpose for writing this story?
 - What did the author want to do for his/her audience?
 - How do you know for sure that this is the purpose?
- Short Story List (Choose 3 from the following. Each story is accessible free online)
 - The Story of An Hour by Kate Chopin
 - Eleven by Sandra Cisneros
 - Salvation by Langston Hughes
 - The Lottery by Shirley Jackson
 - Sonny’s Blues by James Baldwin
 - What You Pawn I Will Redeem by Sherman Alexie
 - The Cask of Amontillado by Edgar Allan Poe
 - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving
 - Thank you M’am by Langston Hughes
 - How It Feels to Be Colored Me by Zora Neale Hurston
 - The Lady or the Tiger? By Frank Stockton
 - Ghosts by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
 - A Temporary Matter by Jhumpa Lahiri
 - Cathedral by Raymond Carver
 - Little Things by Raymond Carver

