

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
Summer Reading 2009
Mrs. Vogt

Part One

Study of Dystopia

This assignment will culminate in the writing of a comparison-contrast paper during the first few weeks of school.

A) Before beginning this assignment, visit the website *Exploring Dystopia: Categorization of Dystopias*
http://hem.passagen.se/replikant/dystopia_categorisation.htm

B) All students will read *1984* by George Orwell and keep a Reader Response Journal*. Come to room 221 if you would like to check this book out for the summer.

C) Choose one of the following dystopian novels and keep a Reader Response Journal. You will need to purchase, borrow, or check out from your local library a copy of this book. Some of these books are available as on-line texts. Keep in mind that you need to survey the list carefully considering your own interests and comfort level. Some of these books deal with very mature issues. You and/or your parent(s) may be uncomfortable with some of these. Please consult your parent(s) before choosing a book to read. If you begin a book and become uncomfortable with it, simply quit reading it and choose another. For guidance on subject matter, amazon.com has some useful summaries to help you make your decision.

Atwood, Margaret – *Oryx and Crata*

Atwood, Margaret – *The Handmaid's Tale*

Bachman, Richard – *The Running Man*

Bradbury, Ray – *Fahrenheit 451*

Brooks, Terry – *Armageddon's Children*

Burgess, Anthony – *A Clockwork Orange*

Gibson, William – *Neuromancer*

Huxley, Aldous – *Brave New World*

London, Jack – *Iron Heel*

Maguire, Gregory – *Wicked*

Miller, Walter M. – *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

Wells, H.G. – *The Time Machine*

About those movies . . . Many dystopian novels have been made into movies. Watching the movie as well as reading the book will not pose a problem. In the end, however, you will be required to use specific references and quotations from the novel. As you know, movies never stick to the novel. Your paper will be based on the novel, not the movie.

If you are inclined to watch a movie rather than read a novel, you need to revisit your decision to be placed in an AP English class.

Part Two

Study of Memoir

Choose ONE memoir to read from this list:

This list contains fairly recent memoirs which are already becoming classics. A memoir relates a story of one part of a person's life, told from his own perspective, unlike a traditional autobiography which usually gives the entire life story of the writer. Because of their historical, philosophical, and rhetorical impact, excerpts from memoirs have been used on the Advanced Placement English Language & Composition exam which you will take in May. Read at least one of these poignant autobiographical works of nonfiction this summer. As you read, keep a Reader Response Journal*.

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin

Hunger for Memory by Richard Rodriguez

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

One Writer's Beginnings by Eudora Welty

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls

Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama

Another memoir will be read as a class assignment during the first quarter of the school year. You will deal with both memoirs at that time. Your reader response journals will help you remember details and quotations from the summer reading

Reader Response Journal

A response log is an effective way to keep a record of your reading response—positive or negative, sure or unsure. It offers a chance to respond personally, to ask questions, wonder, predict, or reflect on the characters, people, events, literary elements, writing techniques, or language of a text. Do not summarize! Instead, record your textual observations.

1. Use notebook paper (one side only) or type it
2. Must have two columns (divide the page in 1/2)
 - Title the column on the left “Quotations from the Text”
 - Title the column on the right “Commentary/Responses to the Text”

Responses may start:

- “The imagery reveals...”
- “The setting gives the effect of...”
- “The author seems to feel...”
- “The tone of this part is...”
- “The character(s) feel(s)...”
- “This is ironic because...”
- “An interesting metaphor or symbol is”
- “The detail seems effective/out of place/important because...”
- “An interesting word/phrase/sentence/thought is...”
- “This reminds me of...”
- “Something I notice/appreciate/don’t appreciate/wonder about is...”
- The author emphasizes _____ in order to...”
- Or you may start with something else you feel is appropriate

3. Generally each response to a quotation should be 3 - 5 sentences and should include your analysis of the literary and rhetorical techniques*** present in the quotations – the author’s attitude, purpose or tone, or relation to personal experience.

4. You must include a total of 20 entries per novel that range from the beginning to the end. Show me that you have read the entire text by responding to the book from the first to the last page.

5. Make sure that you note the page number for the quotes. Your response log will be used to determine your comprehension of the text. Be sure that your responses are thorough and that you complete the journal for all chapters of the book. Please remember that these logs are not meant to be personal diaries. They are meant to be read by others and should be related only to the assigned material. You will be sharing your logs in class, so keep this in mind as you write. When sharing you will have the opportunity to confirm, clarify, and modify your responses through discussion. You will also find that your response logs can be helpful in writing literary and rhetorical analysis of the text.

***I do not expect you to be an expert at analyzing rhetorical techniques (yet), so don’t panic if you don’t know what to do here. We are going to spend nearly the entire class working with rhetorical analysis. Focus on using the analytical techniques you learned in your previous language arts classes.

Sample Response Log: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Quotations from the Text	Commentary/Responses to the Text
<p>“ ‘He might have hurt me a little,’ Atticus conceded, ‘but son, you’ll understand folks a little better when you’re older. A mob’s always made up of people, no matter what. Mr. Cunningham was part of a mob last night, but he was still a man...So, it took an eightyyear - old child to bring ‘em to their senses didn’t it?’” (159 - 160)</p>	<p>The tone here is matter - of - fact. Atticus admits that Mr. Cunningham could have harmed him, but he explains that Mr. Cunningham’s actions were not entirely his own; he was influenced by the crowd as is common for many people. It takes Scout recognizing him and talking to him to make Mr. Cunningham realize that what he is doing is wrong.</p>

Reading Response Journals for all three books are due the first day of school.

I have supplied a reader response log (dialectical journal) template on the school’s website for your convenience. You may make copies of the template or use notebook paper for this assignment.