

AP Reading List

--You must read **two** books from the following list. These books are samples culled from the free response section list of the College Board AP English Literature exam. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Smith at ssmith@cressetchristian.org. The AP portion of the summer assignment follows the book list. AP students are also responsible for reading one book from the 12th grade summer reading list and completing that summer project.

The Age of Innocence – Edith Wharton

Anna Karenina –Leo Tolstoy

Emma – Jane Austen

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

The Awakening – Kate Chopin

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad

Invisible Man – Ralph Ellison

Madame Bovary – Gustave Flaubert

Native Son – Richard Wright

1984 – George Orwell

Doctor Zhivago – Boris Pasternak

The Little Foxes – Lillian Helman

Look Homeward, Angel – Thomas Wolfe

Moby Dick – Herman Melville

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Reminder Notes (one set required for each book)

Following the template given below, entitled “Reminder Notes,” type up a set of notes on your novels. These notes will help you to review

for an in-class essay or discussion as well as for the AP lit exam in the spring. Another purpose is to encourage thought and reflection on your reading. Online study guides that offer instant summaries and interpretations short-circuit this valuable process. DO NOT USE THEM.

To earn an A on your notes, be sure they are

- ready to hand in at the start of class on Friday, August 13, 2010.
- typed
- complete and thorough, reflecting careful thought and attention
- your own work with the text—no other materials used

Reminder Notes Template

- *Be careful about spelling. Feel free to add other elements you would like to remember.*
- 1. **title and author** (check spelling) and publication date
- 2. **major characters** (check spelling), their roles in the story and relationship summarize what drives them (motivation)
- 3. **minor characters** you might like to remember roles and relationships any foils?
- 4. **setting** (time and place)
- 5. **plot** summarize it briefly chart the exposition, rising action, climax, turning point, denouement, etc. note key conflicts that propel the plot
- 6. **themes, big ideas** (list and comment briefly on at least three)

- 7. **describe at least three key scenes** and why they are important
- 8. **discuss the ending**—is it open-ended or neatly resolved?
what do the characters learn, how do they change?
- 9. **narrative point of view**—describe it and note how it contributes to meaning/impact
- 10. **writing style**—describe and offer at least two specific examples
- 11. **note key symbols, motifs, and / or images**—how do they contribute to meaning?
 - ☐ symbol: a person, image, word, object, color, idea, action, event, etc. that evokes meanings beyond the literal
 - ☐ motif: a recurring, unifying element (image, symbol, character type, action, phrase, etc.)
 - ☐ image: a word, phrase, or figure of speech that appeals to the senses
- 12. **patterns** (what goes with what, what contrasts with what?)—these might involve images, characters, events, etc.
- 13. **copy out** at least three memorable quotes, noting page number if relevant, speaker, and context

Ideas for annotating literature

Every text is a lazy machine asking the reader to do some of its work.

--- novelist Umberto Eco

☐ Use a pen so you can make circles, brackets, and notes. If you like highlighters, use one for key passages, but don't get carried away and don't only highlight.

☐ Look for patterns and label them (motifs, diction, symbols, images, behavior, whatever).

☐ Mark passages that seem to jump out at you because they suggest an important idea or theme—or for any other reason (an arresting figure of speech or image, an intriguing sentence pattern, a striking example of

foreshadowing, a key moment in the plot, a bit of dialogue that reveals character, clues about the setting, etc.).

☐ Mark things that puzzle, intrigue, please or displease you. Ask questions, make comments—talk back to the text.

☐ At the ends of chapters or sections, write a bulleted list of key plot events. This not only forces you to think about what happened, see the novel as a whole, and identify patterns, but you create a convenient record of the whole plot.

☐ Circle words you want to learn or words that jump out at you for some reason. If you don't want to stop reading, guess, then look the word up and jot down a relevant meaning later. You need not write out a full dictionary definition; it is often helpful to put the relevant meaning in your own words. If SAT prep has dampened your enthusiasm, rediscover the joy of adding to your "word hoard," as the author of *Beowulf* calls it.