

WAIS Pre-AP English I Summer Reading Assignment 2018 – 2019

How to Read Literature like a Professor: For Kids

The essential question for this text is—

How do we read literature?

So we are asking: What's special about literature? What decisions do authors make when writing?

How do I make connections in literature? How do I interpret literature?

You will have a **group project presentation** based on this book due at the end of the **third week of school**, so you want to make sure to have thought about what this book has to say before school begins (more info once school begins). While you read, make connections to texts that you've already studied in school. Ask, "How does what the author describe bring more meaning to the following texts?" Below are texts that you might have studied in middle school; however, also consider other books that you've read and movies and TV shows that you've watched. You will need to fill out the chart titled, "How to Read Literature like a Professor for Kids" for 10 self-selected chapters for a homework grade due at the end of the second week of school.

The Diary of Anne Frank

Flowers for Algernon

The Giver

Johnny Tremain

"Lambs to the Slaughter"

The Outsiders

The Raft

"The Ransom of Red Chief"

Seedfolks

"The Tell-Tale Heart"

To Kill a Mockingbird

Touching Spirit Bear

Twelfth Night

Twelve Angry Men

Wonder

Utopia / Dystopia

The essential question for these books is—

What criticism is the writer making about our world?

Unwind, Neal Shusterman

ISBN 9781416912057

Ready Player One, Ernest Cline

ISBN 9780307887443

Red Queen, Victoria Aveyard

ISBN 9780062310644

The Time Machine, H. G. Wells

ISBN 9780743487733

Herland, Charlotte P. Gilman

ISBN 9780760777664

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury

ISBN 9781451673319

For this assignment, you will participate in an online Socratic seminar (details once school begins).

For now, just read your selected novel and refer to the handout titled "Utopias and Dystopias:

Definitions and Characteristics." You are not *required* to annotate; however, we *highly recommend* it since you will need to use quotations in your discussion, and annotations will make it much easier.

You *should* annotate for the following topics:

- What makes the dystopia so bad? Or the utopia good?
- Who is the dystopian hero, what does he/she want, and why? Or who is the utopian hero?
- What warning is the writer giving our own society? Or how has the writer made life better?

We hope you enjoy the books!

Your English teachers,

Mrs. Price and Mr. Robison

How to Read Literature like a Professor: For Kids

Directions: Read the whole book, but choose any TEN chapters to take notes on. The texts you choose as examples CANNOT have been discussed in *How to Read Literature*. Your examples must come from other stories, books, movies, television shows, etc. An example has been provided--do TEN more. This assignment must be TYPED. If you cannot type over the summer, hand write it, and then type it when school begins. It is will be a homework grade due at the end of the second week of school.

Chapter	Textual Example	Justification
"Every Trip Is a Quest"		
"Nice to Eat with You"		
"Nice to Eat You"		
"Now Where Have I Seen Him"		
"Shakespeare"		

<p style="text-align: center;">"Bible"</p>	<p>In "The Ransom of Red Chief," Sam says he heard a whoop like David taking out Goliath.</p>	<p>This reference to the Bible story of David and Goliath prepares the reader for when Red Chief slings a stone at Bill the way that David did to Goliath. It also makes it seem like Red Chief is the good guy and Bill the bad when really Red Chief seems more like Goliath.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">"Hansel and Gretel"</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">"It's Greek to Me"</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">"It's More Than Just Rain"</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">"Is That a Symbol?"</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">"It's All Political"</p>		

"Geography Matters"		
"Marked for Greatness"		
"He's Blind for a Reason"		
"It's Never Just Heart Disease"		
"Don't Read with Your Eyes"		
"Is He Serious?"		

Utopias and Dystopias: Definitions and Characteristics from ReadWriteThink.org

Utopia: A place, state, or condition that is ideally perfect in respect of politics, laws, customs, and conditions. This does not mean that the people are perfect, but the system is perfect.

Characteristics of a Utopian Society

- Information, independent thought, and freedom are promoted.
- A figurehead or concept brings the citizens of the society together, but not treated as singular.
- Citizens are truly free to think independently.
- Citizens have no fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a harmonious state.
- The natural world is embraced and revered.
- Citizens embrace social and moral ideals. Individuality and innovation are welcomed.
- The society evolves with change to make a perfect utopian world.

Types of Utopian Ideas

Most utopian works present a world in which societal ideals and the common good of society are maintained through one or more of the following types of beliefs:

- Economic ideas: Money is abolished. Citizens only do work that they enjoy.
- Governing ideas: Society is controlled by citizenry in a largely individualist, communal, social and sometimes libertarian “government”. The term government is used loosely, as power is seen to corrupt, so constructed government systems are warned against.
- Technological ideas: In some cases, technology may be embraced to enhance the human living experience and make human life easier and more convenient. Other ideas propose that technology drives a wedge between humanity and nature, therefore becoming an evil to society.
- Ecological ideas: Back to the nature, humans live harmoniously with nature and reverse the effects of industrialization.
- Philosophical/religious ideas: Society believes in a common religious philosophy, some fashion their surroundings around the biblical Garden of Eden. In inter-religious utopias, all ideas of God are welcomed. In intra-religious utopias, a singular idea of God is accepted and practiced by all citizens.

The Utopian Hero

- can be an insider who works to promote the ideals of society.
- questions the existing social and political systems with the aim to bring positive change.
- believes or feels that the society in which he or she lives is always getting better.
- helps the audience recognize the positive aspects of the utopian world through his or her perspective.
- can also be an outsider who must learn about this new society (the POV character for the audience)

Dystopia / Anti-utopia: A dystopia is an imagined universe in which oppressive societal control or an apocalypse has created a world in which the conditions of life are miserable, characterized by human misery, poverty, oppression, violence, disease, and/or pollution. Anti-utopias *appear* to be utopian or were intended to be so, but a fatal flaw or other factor has destroyed or twisted the intended utopian world or concept, such as in *The Giver*. Dystopias and anti-utopias are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, authors make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system through their dystopias / anti-utopias.

Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

Types of Dystopian Controls

Most dystopian works present a world in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through one or more of the following types of controls:

- Corporate control: One or more large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media. Examples include *Minority Report* and *Running Man*.
- Bureaucratic control: Society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials. Examples in film include *Brazil*.
- Technological control: Society is controlled by technology—through computers, robots, and/or scientific means. Examples include *The Matrix*, *The Terminator*, and *I, Robot*.
- Philosophical/religious control: Society is controlled by philosophical or religious ideology often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government, such as in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

The Dystopian Hero

- often feels trapped and is struggling to escape.
- questions the existing social and political systems.
- believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.