**English 12**

**M. Hamilton**

**Term Book Project**

**The Book Club component of your term consists of three things: the précis, the essay, the presentation.**

1. Write a 250 word precis of the plot. Remember that a precis is a summary only, **with no analysis, interpretation or evaluation**. You will have to draft this more than once to get it to 250 words. You may not exceed 250 words.
2. The essay choices are listed below; you may select **ONE** of the questions and answer it in a well-developed, multi-paragraphed essay. You may consult outside sources, but remember to cite them on a “Works Cited” page. Your essay will be no longer than 5 pages double-spaced. We will have time in class to go over essay writing techniques, review literary terms, and workshop the rough drafts, but much of the work, will be independent.
3. The presentation: select an aspect of the novel which interests you the most (background of the author, setting, literary setting, a character, etc) and construct a 10 minute presentation around it. You need to talk about plot details only insofar as they help us understand your presentation.

**Book Club Essay Questions:**

1. The significance of a title such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is easy to discover. However, in other works (for example, *Measure for Measure*) the full significance of the title becomes apparent to the reader only gradually.

Choose one work and show how the **significance of their respective titles** is developed through the author's use of devices such as contrast, repetition, allusion, and point of view.

The works below are listed as examples. You may wish to choose from them or to provide your own appropriate examples.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Jude the Obscure* | *A Doll's House* |
| Wuthering Heights | *The Tempest* |
| *Heart of Darkness* | *The Glass Menagerie* |
| *A Passage to India* | *The Crucible* |
| *Light in August* | *The Sandbox* |
| *The Heart of the Matter*  | *The Way of the World* |
| *The Scarlet Letter* | *The Cherry Orchard* |

2. In retrospect, the reader often discovers that **the first chapter of a novel or the opening scene of a drama** **introduces some of the major themes** of the work. Write an essay about the opening scene of a drama or the first chapter of a novel in which you explain how it functions in this way. In your essay do not merely summarize the plot of the work you are discussing

3. Choose an implausible or strikingly unrealistic incident or character in a work of fiction or drama of recognized literary merit. Write an essay that **explains how the incident or character is related to the more realistic or plausible elements in the rest of the work**. Avoid plot summary.

The works below are listed as examples. You may select one of them or provide another appropriate work.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *King Lear* | *Moby-Dick* |
| *The Scarlet Letter*  | *A Passage to India* |
| *David Copperfield* | *Lord Jim* |
| *Invisible Man* | *The Metamorphosis* |
| *The Tempest* | *The Wild Duck* |
| *Wuthering Heights* | *Jane Eyre* |
| *As I lay Dying* | *The Homecoming* |

4. In some works of literature, **a character who appears briefly**, or does not appear at all, is a significant presence.

Choose a novel or play of literary merit and write an essay in which you show how such a character functions in the work. You may wish to discuss **how the character affects action, theme, or the development of other characters**. Avoid plot summary.

You may select a work from the list below or you may choose another work of comparable literary merit suitable for the topic.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *1984* | *Invisible Man* |
| *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* | *J.B.* |
| *Antigone* | *Jane Eyre* |
| *The Apprentice of Duddy Kravitz* | *The Mayor of Casterbridge* |
| *As I Lay Dying* | *Moby-Dick* |
| *Bleak House* | *Mrs. Dalloway* |
| *The Bear* | *Obasan* |
| *Catch-22* | *The Optimist's Daughter* |
| *Cat's Eye* | *A Raisin in the Sun* |
| *The Color Purple* | *The Turn of the Screw* |
| *Death of a Salesman* | *Twelfth Night* |
| *The Glass Menagerie* | *Waiting For Godot* |
| *Hamlet* | *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* |
| *Heart Of Darkness* |

5. The British novelist Fay Weldon offers this observation about **happy endings:**

"The writers, I do believe, who get the best and most lasting response from the readers are the writers who offer a happy ending through moral development. By a happy ending, I do not mean mere fortunate events - a marriage or a last-minute rescue from death - but some kind of spiritual reassessment of moral reconciliation, even with the self, even at death."

Choose a novel or play that has the kind of ending Weldon describes. In a well-written essay, identify the "spiritual reassessment or moral reconciliation" evident in the ending and **explain it's significance in the work as a whole.** You may select a work from the list below or another novel or play of literary merit.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* | *Major Barbara* |
| *All the Pretty Horses* | *Moby-Dick* |
| *Bless Me, Ultima* | *The Piano Lesson* |
| *Candide* | *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* |
| *Ceremony* | *The Portrait of a Lady* |
| *The Color Purple* | *Praise song for the Widow* |
| *Crime and Punishment* | *A Raisin in the Sun* |
| *Cry, the Beloved Country* | *Song of Solomon* |
| *Emma* | *The Stone Angel* |
| *The Eumenides* | *The Tempest* |
| *Great Expectations* | *Their Eyes Were Watching God* |
| *Heart of Darkness* | *Twelfth Night*  |
| *Invisible Man* | *The Warden* |
| *Jane Eyre* | *Wuthering Heights* |
| *Kind Lear* |

6. Novels and plays often include scenes of weddings, funerals, parties, and other **social occasions**. Such scenes may reveal the values of the characters and the society in which they live. Select a novel or play that includes such a scene and, in a focused essay, **discuss the contribution the scene makes to the meaning of the work as a whole.** You may choose a work from the list below or another novel or play of literary merit.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *The Age of Innocence* | *Julius Caesar* |
| *The Awakening* | *The Joy Luck Club* |
| *The Birthday Party* | *The Member of the Wedding* |
| *Bless Me, Ultima* | *Mrs. Dalloway* |
| *Ceremony* | *Much Ado About Nothing* |
| *The Color Purple*  | *Our Town* |
| *Daisy Miller* | *Pnin* |
| *The Dead* | *Pride and Prejudice* |
| *Delta Wedding* | *Romeo and Juliet* |
| *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* | *The Shipping News* |
| *The Glass Menagerie* | *The Sound and the Fury* |
| *The Great Gatsby*  | *Sula*  |
| *Hamlet*  | *Things Fall Apart* |
| *Invisible Man* | *Wuthering Heights* |
| *Jane Eyre* |

Due Date for rough intro paragraph for peer/teacher editing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Due Date for précis, essay:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Due Date for presentations: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work periods: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

adapted from Zion-Benton Township High AP Program