



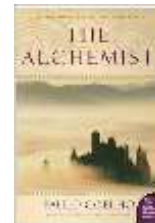
Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading
Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement
English
2017-2018



English I Pre-Advanced Placement

The Alchemist

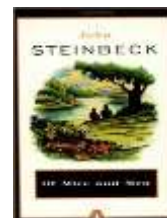
by Paulo Coelho



English II Pre-Advanced Placement

Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck

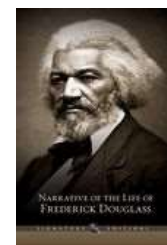


English III Pre-Advanced Placement

AP Language & Composition

***The Narrative of the Life
of Frederick Douglass***

by Frederick Douglass



English IV Honors
AP Literature & Composition

Brave New World

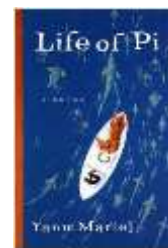
By Aldous Huxley



Humanities

The Life of Pi

Yann Martel





Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading

Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



Dear Parents of English Pre-AP and AP Students:

As we end a school year, the English teachers at Edinburg CISD would like to let you know that we have your child's education in mind when we make decisions about summer reading assignments. In order to adequately prepare for AP English exams and to develop your child's reading and thinking skills within a limited number of months, we require all English I Pre-AP, English II Pre-AP, English III Pre-AP/AP, English IV Honors/AP, and Humanities students to read assigned novels during the summer months. Students will be assessed over the summer reading through tests, essays, and class activities during the first weeks of school. Below, you will find a list of the classes and the novels that need to be read prior to the first day of the 2017-2018 school year. Your child will need to acquire the necessary novel and read it during the summer. Please feel free to call your child's current English teacher or counselor if you have any questions as to which novel your son/daughter should read this summer. Please note: **Failure to read the required novel and complete the assignment will adversely affect your student's grade.**

English Course 2017-2018	Novel	Author
English I Pre-AP	<i>The Alchemist</i>	Paulo Coelho
English II Pre-AP	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	John Steinbeck
English III Pre-AP AP Language & Composition	<i>The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	Frederick Douglass
English IV Honors AP Literature & Composition	<i>Brave New World</i>	Aldous Huxley
Humanities	<i>Life of Pi</i>	Yann Martel

The summer reading writing assignment is due Monday, September 4, 2017.
The summer reading objective exam will be on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

Thank you,
Robert Vela High School English teachers



Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading

Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



ASSIGNMENT

THEME

Theme is defined as a universal message about life or human nature. A theme is not a single word such as “love.” The subject of the novel may be love, but to arrive at the theme, you must think about *what* the author is saying *about* love. For example, a complete theme may be expressed as, “love can be a destructive force that impairs one’s judgment.”

Think about the themes of your assigned novel. A novel of literary merit often has several different themes; therefore, you may come up with a few different messages the novel conveys.

PART I OF THE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT – CURRENT EVENT ARTICLES

Find THREE news articles about current events that relate to the novel thematically. The novel may have a few different themes; therefore, you may choose a different theme for each article, or you may stick to one theme and find three different articles that connect to it.

Each article must meet the following requirements:

- The current event must have occurred within the last 10 years.
- Articles must come from a credible news source (see the suggested list of resources on the following page).
- Articles must be at least a half page of text. Do not choose an article that is only a headline, a blurb, or brief outline of events.
- You will be required to complete a Works Cited page that includes the MLA citations for each of the three articles. You may want to use Easybib.com or CitationMachine.net to correctly format your Works Cited page.

PART II OF THE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT – WRITTEN RESPONSES

For each of the three articles, you will write a response. Explain how that current event is thematically connected to the novel and elaborate on the message the two texts have in common. You will turn in THREE responses with a Works Cited page.

Each response must meet the following requirements:

- Responses must at least half a page and be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, single spaced, with one inch margins, and a header with your name, date, course title, and class period.
- Each response must have at least one quote from the novel and one quote from the news article.
- Textual evidence must be in quotation marks.
- Each response must be titled with the complete theme statement that connects novel and article.
-

***See the sample response included in this packet for ideas on how to organize each response.**

*Be sure you have typed and saved your responses. All students will be required to submit their summer reading assignments on TurnItIn.com which detects plagiarism. Students will set up their accounts on this website during the first week of school.



Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading

Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



SUGGESTED LIST OF RESOURCES

Internet News Sites	Databases	Local News
The New York Times www.nytimes.com	Databases are accessible through the RVHS Library website: http://edinburg.vela.schooldesk.net/	The Monitor www.themonitor.com
The Washington Post www.washingtonpost.com	EBSCO, BrainPop, Britannica, MackinVia Username: vela006 Password: vela006	Valley Morning Star www.valleymorningstar.com
BBC News www.bbc.com	Gale Username is not required Password: learn	Channel 5 News www.krgv.com
PBS Newshour www.pbs.org/newshour	Brainhive Username: brainhive Password: student	Channel 4 News www.valleycentral.com

When selecting articles, consider the following information from www.owl.english.purdue.edu regarding the evaluation of sources:

The world is full of information to be found—however, not all of it is valid, useful, or accurate. Evaluating sources of information that you are considering using in your writing is an important step in any research activity.

Similarly, for information on other topics, not only is there a huge quantity available but with a very uneven level of quality. You don't want to rely on the news in the headlines of sensational tabloids near supermarket checkout counters, and it's just as hard to know how much to accept of what's in all the books, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers, journals, brochures, Web sites, and various media reports that are available. People want to convince you to buy their products, agree with their opinions, rely on their data, vote for their candidate, consider their perspective, or accept them as experts. In short, you have to sift and make decisions all the time, and you want to make responsible choices that you won't regret.

Evaluating sources is an important skill. It's been called an art as well as work—much of which is detective work. You have to decide where to look, what clues to search for, and what to accept. You may be overwhelmed with too much information or too little. The temptation is to accept whatever you find. But don't be tempted. Learning how to evaluate effectively is a skill you need both for your course papers and for your life.



Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading

Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



GRADING RUBRIC

Each response is worth 25 points and the Works Cited page is worth the final 25 points for a maximum grade of 100. Responses will be assessed using the rubric below.

	Exemplary Response 20-25 points	Sufficient Response 15-20 points	Partially Sufficient 10-15 points	Insufficient Response 5-10 points
Development of ideas	<p>_____ The theme is perceptive and reflects text's complexities</p> <p>_____ Text evidence is well chosen and strongly supports the theme.</p> <p>_____ Combination of the theme and text evidence reflects a deep understanding of the text.</p>	<p>_____ The theme is reasonable and goes beyond the literal.</p> <p>_____ Text evidence is accurate and relevant.</p> <p>_____ Combination of the theme and text evidence reflects a good understanding of the text.</p>	<p>_____ The theme is reasonable.</p> <p>_____ The text evidence does not adequately support the theme.</p> <p>_____ The theme needs more explanation or represents only a literal reading.</p>	<p>_____ The theme is not relevant.</p> <p>_____ Either no text evidence or there is no connection between theme and evidence.</p> <p>_____ No idea is present or is too vague.</p> <p>_____ Response only repeats or echoes the text evidence.</p>
Language and conventions	<p>_____ effective word choice</p> <p>_____ well-controlled, varied sentences</p> <p>_____ consistent command of grammar and usage</p>	<p>_____ adequate word choice</p> <p>_____ generally controlled sentences</p> <p>_____ general command of grammar and usage</p>	<p>_____ simple word choice</p> <p>_____ several awkward sentences</p> <p>_____ some distracting errors in grammar and usage</p>	<p>_____ imprecise word choice</p> <p>_____ simplistic or awkward sentences</p> <p>_____ persistent errors in grammar and usage</p>

ASSIGNMENT CHECK LIST

- ✓ 3 written responses – each a half page in length and titled with a relevant theme.
- ✓ Develop insightful responses that explain the thematic connections between the article and the novel.
- ✓ Do not merely summarize each text.
- ✓ Works Cited page in MLA format and includes a citation for each of the three articles.

PROOFREAD

- ✓ Use quotation marks when taking direct quotations from the texts.
- ✓ Titles of novels must be italicized. Titles of articles must be in quotation marks.
- ✓ Revise for grammar, spelling, and punctuation.



Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading

Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



Responses that are plagiarized from either a published source or from a peer will not receive credit and no make-up opportunity will be given.

All students will be required to submit their Summer Reading assignments on TurnItIn.com which detects plagiarism. Students will set up their accounts on this website during the first week of school.

Avoid using websites such as Wikipedia, SparkNotes, and similar sites while working on your summer reading assignment. While you may be tempted to access these sites for help in understanding the novel, you do not want to risk plagiarizing ideas from these sources. Rely on your own critical reading and thinking skills to complete the assignment.

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense. According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the ideas of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not



Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading

Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



SAMPLE RESPONSE

You are required to write 3 of these – one for each article you select.

Theme: Complete assimilation into a new culture is nearly impossible.

A theme shared by *The Namesake* and the article titled “Younger Immigrants Adjust to a New Culture Faster” is the idea that complete assimilation into a new culture is nearly impossible. In the novel, Ashima emigrates from India to the United States, and she has a difficult time adjusting to the customs and expectations of American life. In some ways Ashima eventually begins to conform, such as when she agrees to make her children, “an American dinner each week, sometimes Shake ‘n Bake chicken, other times Hamburger Helper;” however, she still wears a traditional Indian sari every day and holds on to many of the family values of her Bengali culture. Because of these Bengali ideals, Ashima cannot understand “her children’s independence, their need to keep their distance from her.” As Ashima outwardly tries to assimilate to American life for the sake of her children, the reader is able to see her internal conflicts caused by her deep-rooted Bengali culture. Similarly, the study published by “Psychological Science,” discusses the challenges immigrants face when adapting to a new culture and claims “this process is easier for children, but quickly becomes more difficult after about the age of 15.” After surveying 232 immigrants, researchers concluded that “acculturation really is a difficult experience. It’s not something that people can easily accomplish.” It is understandably more difficult for adult immigrants to adjust because their original culture and heritage has already shaped their entire way of life. The findings of the study and Ashima’s character in *The Namesake* both reveal the struggles of assimilating into a new society and suggest that while immigrants might learn to conform in some ways, they will always hold on to some aspects of their original culture.

Begin with a **TOPIC SENTENCE**. Include the title of the novel, the title of the article, and the **THEME** they have in common.

Include 1-2 quotes (**CONCRETE DETAILS**) from the novel that support the theme. Embed quotations to improve the flow of your writing.

Provide 1-2 sentences of explanation (**COMMENTARY**) after presenting the quotes.

Use a transition word/phrase when moving on to discuss the current events article. Then follow the structure used above to discuss the article (**CONCRETE DETAILS** and **COMMENTARY**).

End your response with a **CLOSING SENTENCE** that reinforces the link between the novel and the article.



Robert Vela H.S. Summer Reading

Pre-Advanced & Advanced Placement English 2017-2018



Student/ Parent (Guardian) Agreement

This page must be returned to your current English teacher before the last week of school.

STUDENT

By signing below, I guarantee that I fully understand my responsibilities for the summer reading and related assignments. I also guarantee to submit my work no later than Monday, **September 4, 2017** and will be prepared for the objective test of the novel which will be administered **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**.

By signing below, I am also acknowledging that I have read the plagiarism statement included in this packet. I understand that plagiarizing from either a published source or from a classmate will result in a zero for the assignment and no make-up opportunity will be given.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

.....

PARENT

By signing below, I indicate awareness and understanding of my child’s responsibilities for the summer reading. I am aware that the novels chosen for summer reading are sanctioned by AP College Board and represent selections deemed to be books of literary merit. As a parent, I support my child’s efforts to fulfill his/ her classroom expectations to submit the summer reading assignment by the due date. I understand that if my child fails to complete the required reading and assignment, his/her grade will be adversely affected.

By signing below, I am also acknowledging that I have read the plagiarism statement included in this packet. I understand that plagiarizing from either a published source or from a peer will result in a zero for the assignment and no make-up opportunity will be given.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____