

Honors English I Summer Reading Assignment

Instructor: Mrs. Denton

1. Read the following novels:

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

2. Type the answers to the attached questions for EACH book, a total of two separate sets of responses. Be thorough and address each part of every question. Each question should be answered in complete sentences. Part of your grade is based on the accuracy and thoughtfulness of these answers. If you don't understand the literary terms mentioned, look them up and answer accurately.

3. Have these assignments typed and printed on the first day of school in your class section, and be prepared to participate in both a Socratic seminar and an in-class writing assignment over the summer reading information a few days after you begin your section of class. Any summer reading assignments accepted *after* the first day of school in your section's semester will receive a point deduction.

4. During the first week of school, each class will hold a Socratic seminar over the two books. Instructions about the seminar will be given in class. Students will also take an essay test over the books in class the first week.

Questions for Evaluating Literature

***Cite page numbers for all details. This will help you write the essay assessments and participate in the seminar over the books.**

1. **Titles** always add meaning to writing. What is the significance of the title of this novel? (4 points)
2. What is the **setting** of the story: when and where? How does the setting influence the characters and reveal the main ideas of the book? (6 points)
3. Who are the **main characters** (list four)? Explain what makes them **well rounded**: give details about their **characterization** (appearance, motivations, and important actions). Explain how these **dynamic** characters change as the story progresses. (8 points)
4. Describe the **diction and syntax** of the **protagonist** (the way he or she talks). How do his/her speech patterns affect his **characterization** – the way he or she “seems” to the reader? Provide four examples with the page numbers. (8 points)
5. What **point of view** is used to tell the story; if it is first person, name the narrator or narrators. How does this influence the impact of the story? (4 points)
6. Give a brief summary of the **plot**. Include important details, but do not write more than one page! (10 points)
7. Describe the major **conflicts, both internal and external**, in this story. (4 points)
8. Explain and give specific examples of the literary devices the author uses to tell the story. Include examples of each of the following: **irony, foreshadowing, imagery, symbolism, satire, and allusions**. Indicate the page number where each device is found. (12 points)
9. What is the **theme** of the selection? How does this relate to your experience of life and human nature in our society? (4 points)