



Honors English I

Summer Reading Assignment

Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Thoms

1. Reading the following novels:

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

2. **On computer paper**, type the answers to the attached questions for **EACH** book, a total of **two (2) separate sets of responses**. Use MLA format (Times New Roman, size 12 font, double spaced). Be thorough and address each part of every question. Part of your grade is based on the accuracy and thoughtfulness of these answers. If you don't understand the literary terms mentioned, you must look them up and answer accurately!

3. **On computer paper**, type two journal entries more than one (1) page in length each on your two favorite characters from each novel, for a total of four (4) separate entries (two entries for each novel). Use MLA format (Times New Roman, size 12 font, double spaced). In your journal entries, describe each of these four characters and tell why you find him/her so interesting.

All of the questions must be answered in complete sentences and your responses should be typed in MLA format. Have these assignments **typed, completed, and printed** on the first day of school in your class section, and be prepared to take **BOTH** a test 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 **significant** point deduction.

Evaluating Literature Questions = 60 points

Journal Entries = 40 points

Possible Points = 200 TOTAL (100 points per novel's responses)



Questions for Evaluating Literature

1. **Titles** always add meaning to writing. What is the significance of the title of this selection? (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**: 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 his story. Include one example 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)