

Easy Peasy All-in-One High School American Literature Final Writing Project

Due Day 180

Choose a fiction novel or a play by an American author for your project. This must be something we have not read in class. Talk over your choice with your parent or responsible adult. Be sure they are okay with your choice. Your choice should be something that you find interesting, so you can do well with the project.

Your writing project will include: a reading log, an oral presentation of a summary with review, a creative assignment, and a literary analysis.

The entire project will be worth 120 points.

All parts of the writing project will be due on Day 180. Class instructions will focus on each section of the project in order, but the pace you work at is ultimately up to you. Work on the different parts of the writing project should overlap and relate to each other. You should work on each piece as part of a complete project.

Your project must be typed in 12 point font, with 1 inch margins, and double spaced. (The only exception to this is if you chose to handwrite your Reading Log entries. You do not have to retype them.) Note page numbers where information can be found in the text using correct MLA parenthetical citation. Each page should be consecutively numbered using correct MLA pagination format. Please create a cover page for your project listing your name, the author and title of the book you have chosen.

Reading Log – 30 points:

Keep a log of your reading by recording the dates and pages numbers you have completed as you read your book. There should be at least one entry for every section/chapter of the reading.

- Note important information about characterization and events.
- Ask questions that you hope will be answered as you continue reading.
- Consider what critical reading questions you could include.
- As you finish each section write a summary of memorable scenes and quotes. Include a summary of the action and any character development you noticed.
- Tell why you thought a scene or quote was memorable.
- Always make sure you include the page number, chapter number, etc. where you found what you are noting.
- You should be citing using MLA format. Make note of any literary or rhetorical devices used.

Some other ideas:

- Comment on a direct quote. Explain why you found it significant or enjoyable. Or paraphrase it.
- Explain why you found something challenging or different. Analyze it.
- Write questions about anything that confuses you or gives you trouble. You don't have to answer the questions, just try to figure out what the questions are. Or challenge the point being made: argue.

- Consult a dictionary and write definitions of words you don't know.
- If you would like to, draw pictures or diagrams to help you understand the reading. Explain your drawings to achieve further understanding of the reading.
- Make closing comments about the reading as a whole when you've completed it.

The Reading Log should be graded as a whole and not on every individual entry. The grading for the Reading Log should be done using the rubric Writing Rubric: Writing a Response to Literature. It is pages 6-7 of PDF (or pages 4-5 of the document itself) of the [Rubrics for Assessing Student Writing, Listening, and Speaking](#). Grade the Reading Log out of 30 points.

Oral Presentation: Summary – 30 points

The oral presentation summary should be 5-7 minutes long and include:

- a brief discussion of background information about the author
- historical background related to the book and the literary movement associated with the book
- a plot summary focusing on the Five Elements of a Plot: Exposition, Rising Action (Conflict), Climax, Falling Action, and Resolution
- a characterization of an important character (use the characterization methods discussed in class)
- your personal reaction (review) to the reading:
 - Your experience reading it. How did it make you feel? Did it help you or emotionally impact you in any way? Why or why not?
 - What message did you get from this book?
 - Do you think the author was successful in getting the message across?
 - Your opinion of the issues the author raises in the novel.
 - Your recommendation. Who should read it and why?

The grading for the Oral Presentation should be done using the rubric Presenting an Oral Response to Literature found on page 26-27 of the [Rubrics for Assessing Student Writing, Listening, and Speaking](#). Grade the Oral Presentation out of 30 points.

Creative Assignment – 30 points

Choose ONE assignment option for this portion of the project. Your choice should be 1-2 typed pages in 12 point font. If you are really enjoying your creative assignment, you can write more!

At the top of your Creative Assignment's paper, you should write out the assignment description you chose from the list of 40+ options.

Writing/Creative Writing

1. Pretend that you are the author and describe the part that was the most fun or most difficult to write. Explain why.
2. Write any kind of poem about your book (minimum of 20 lines).

3. Explain how a character in the book changed from the beginning to the end.
4. Choose a quote from a character. Write why it would or wouldn't be a good motto by which to live your life.
5. Write about a character's life 20 years from the time the story ends.
6. Write a letter to the main character of your book asking questions, protesting a situation, and/or making a complaint and/or a suggestion.
7. Add a new character and explain what you would have him or her do in the story.
8. Change the setting of the book you read. Tell how this change of setting would alter events and affect the characters.
9. Select one character from the book you read who has the qualities of a heroine or hero. List these qualities and tell why you think the character is heroic.
10. Create and answer five "What if . . . ?" questions about a character. For example: "What if my character did not agree to . . . ? What if my character decided to . . . ?"
11. Pretend that you are one of the characters who has "come back" 25 years after the novel has ended. Describe your reactions.
12. Pretend that you can spend a day with one of the characters. Which character would you choose? Why? What would you do?
13. Tell what you think happened before the story began.
14. Explain how you would make your book into a movie. Who would play the main characters, where would you film it, etc? You must explain your choices.
15. Write two articles for a newspaper published at the time of a major event in your book.
16. Write several diary entries made by one of the major characters (at least 10 entries).
17. Imagine that you are the author of the book you have just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a letter to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc. would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles.
18. Pretend that you are going to join the characters in the story. What would you do in the story to change the outcome of a particular event? How would your relationship be with different characters in the book?
19. Write a scene that could have happened in the book you read but didn't. After you have written the scene, explain how it would have changed the outcome of the book.
20. Choose three conflicts that take place in the story and give the solutions. Is there one that you wish had been handled differently?
21. Write another part of the story in which you describe what happened to the main character after the story ended.
22. List five of the main characters from the book you read. Give three examples of what each character learned or did not learn in the book. Be sure to use complete sentences and paragraphs.
23. Retell the story in the form of a fairy tale or a children's story. Your retelling should remain true to the plot and the themes of the story, but you may be creative in how you depict them
24. Write the plot for a sequel to this book.

ALL visual projects (maps, collages, dioramas, etc.) must include **no less than a one-page explanation.**

Art/Multimedia

25. Design a room that a character would have. Make a sketch of the room and provide an explanation of your choices.
26. Draw a color map of where a major part of the story takes place. Label the major landmarks or points of interest.
27. Write an interview with one of the major characters. Tape or perform the interview for an additional 10 points.
28. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found or drawn. This project also works well for fictional locations. Be sure to include a list of any resources you use for this project.
29. Draw a picture of the setting of the climax. Why did the author choose to have the action take place here?
30. Create a radio ad for your book. Write out the script and record it as it would be presented. Don't forget sound effects and background music.
31. Pretend that you are one of the characters in the book you read. Tape an original monologue of that character telling about his or her experiences. Be sure to write out the script taping and turn in the text. You could perform this "live" if you so choose.
32. Create a sculpture, portrait, or some likeness of a particular character from your book. As some physical aspects demand to be portrayed, be sure to reflect on the emotions and personality of your character. Include a paragraph describing your artwork, including a quotation(s) from which the project was inspired.
33. Create a colorful diorama of a particular scene from your book. Pay attention to the setting and characters. Include a paragraph describing the particular scene, including a quotation from which the project was inspired.
34. Do several pieces of art about your book (at least 5 that demonstrate significant effort).
35. Choose a scene from the novel. Illustrate the scene in the form of a comic strip, composed of at least 10-15 frames. Utilize color and captions. On the back write the quotation or paragraph from which the project was inspired.
36. Create a newspaper from one of the towns/cities listed in your book. Include articles and ads that are appropriate to your story. You may choose to combine this project with some of the other newspaper related projects (obituaries, articles, advertisements), but if you combine projects, you must create a realistic final product that looks like a newspaper.
37. Script a scene from your book and perform the scene with a sibling(s) or friend(s).
38. Create an original t-shirt or costume representative of your book. The t-shirt must demonstrate a significant amount of effort and insight to earn full credit.
39. Write and perform an original song related to your book.
40. Choreograph and perform an original movement piece related to your book.
41. Rewrite the book for younger children in picture book form.

42. Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book you read. Include each of the following: a poster, a radio or TV commercial, a magazine or newspaper ad, a bumper sticker, and a button.
43. Make an audition video in which you, or someone else, auditions for a part in a movie version of your book.

The grading for the Creative Assignment is out of 30 points. There is a wide variety of what can be done for this portion of the project, so the grading will be based on meeting the following general requirements:

- ✓ Book title and author are included. Directions for presentation and organization were followed (font, MLA, etc.)
- ✓ The project is attractive in terms of design, layout, organization and neatness.
- ✓ The project demonstrates time, effort, and clear understanding of novel.
- ✓ Events, characters, and theme are clearly and completely represented with multiple, specific examples.
- ✓ Project exemplifies complex and well-supported thinking.
- ✓ For interviews or other related media ideas, the presentation is original, creative, and obviously well prepared beforehand. The presentation is clear (audio and video) with little or no shaking or obvious cutting/editing.
- ✓ The writer seems to be writing from knowledge or experience. The author has taken the ideas and made them “his/her own”.
- ✓ Appropriate sentence structure, transitions, tone, voice and vocabulary are used well throughout the writing.
- ✓ The length and amount of writing is appropriate to the project selection.
- ✓ Proper attention was given to capitalization, punctuation, formatting, and spelling.

Literary Analysis - 30 points

Essays are to be 500-700 words long. The student may choose to write a literary analysis exploring an aspect of a chosen work(s) such as character, setting, mood, symbolism, figurative language, theme, etc. discussing how that literary element contributes to the overall meaning.

Your Reading Log should have plenty of information you have notated in order to help you create your essay.

The grading for the Literary Analysis is out of 30 points. You can find a [Writing Rubric: Writing a Literary Analysis](#) on page 14 & 15 of this PDF.