

English 11 Honors
Summer Assignment 2009-2010

1. **Author Study**

Over the course of the school year, you will be required to read three novels by one author of significant literary merit chosen from this list on the back of this page.

During the summer, you are to choose your author from the list and read one novel to begin your study.

Remember that since you will be completing three books by this author, choose an author you will enjoy. Be sure the author has three books you will find worthy of your time.

2. **Formal Essay**

Using your selected novel, respond to one of the following essay questions. Your response should be at least 3 full, double-spaced, typed pages, which you have thoroughly proofread. Avoid mere plot summary. Your essay should reflect that you are an honors student and include support from the text.

Choice 1:

Morally ambiguous characters—characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good—are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole.

Choice 2:

From a novel, choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict within one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

This assignment is due when you return to school in the fall.

Suggested Authors

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi	Kesey, Ken
Agee, James	Kidd, Sue Monk
Albom, Mitch	King, Stephen
Alvarez, Julia	Kingsolver, Barbara
Angelou, Maya	Kingston, Maxine Hong
Atwood, Margaret	Koontz, Dean
Austen, Jane	Lahiri, Jumpa
Becket, Samuel	Lawrence, D.H.
Bradbury, Ray	LeGuin, Ursula K.
Bronte, Charlotte	Lewis, C.S.
Bronte, Emily	Martel, Yann
Camus, Albert	McCourt, Frank
Capote, Truman	Melville, Herman
Christie, Agatha	Miller, Arthur
Cisneros, Sandra	Moliere, Jean-Baptiste
Clancy, Tom	Morrison, Toni
Clark, Mary Higgins	Oates, Joyce Carol
Coelho, Paulo	O'Brien, Tim
Cormier, Robert	Orwell, George
Crichton, Michael	Paton, Alan
Crutcher, Chris	Potok, Chaim
Dickens, Charles	Quindlen, Anna
Dillard, Annie	Saroyan, William
Dostoevsky, Fyodor	Shaw, Bernard
Doyle, Arthur Conan	Shelley, Mary
Dreiser, Theodore	Steinbeck, John
Eliot, T.S.	Tan, Amy
Faulkner, William	Tolkien, J.R.R.
Fitzgerald, F. Scott	Tolstoy, Leo
Flinn, Alex	Vonnegut, Kurt
Forster, E.M.	Walker, Alice
Gaines, Ernest	Wells, H.G.
Grisham, John	Wharton, Edith
Haley, Alex	Woolf, Virginia
Hardy, Thomas	Wright, Richard
Heller, Joseph	
Hemingway, Ernest	
Hosseini, Khaled	
Huxley, Aldous	
Irving, John	
James, Henry	

Please note: Students should not read novels that they have already read in English (i.e. They should not read novels that are in the 9th or 10th grade course of studies). Further, students should not read Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, Miller's Death of a Salesman, or Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby.