

English III IB Literature: Summer Reading Assignment

The following is your summer reading assignment for English III next year with me, Mrs. Trebert. Please feel free to contact me this summer if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by e-mail at hruedi@uplifteducation.org

Reading Assignments – explore & annotate BOTH texts below:

At the start of next year there will be an essay paralleling and analyzing major themes and elements in the two works you've investigated.

- Read and annotate carefully, because we will be discussing the texts all of Quarter 1. ***You will be able to use your annotation notes for any graded work first quarter.***
 - Marking and annotating a text is like having a conversation—it allows the reader to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark excerpts to revisit.
 - Make brief notes marking important plot events, narrative shifts, moments, or themes, images, and details that form a pattern throughout the text (motif).
 - Circle words that are interesting, unfamiliar, or unusual—try to figure out the word's meaning through contextual clues and supplement with a dictionary.

1. Anchor TEXT (Read in FULL):

Read the following text before school next year. The full text is available for free on my Schoology page and anywhere online, OR you can purchase your own.

- **The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass** by Frederick Douglass
 - Former slave, impassioned abolitionist, brilliant writer, newspaper editor and eloquent orator whose speeches fired the abolitionist cause, Frederick Douglass (1818–1895) led an astounding life. Physical abuse, deprivation and tragedy plagued his early years, yet through sheer force of character he was able to overcome these obstacles to become a leading spokesman for his people. In this, the first and most frequently read of his three autobiographies, Douglass provides graphic descriptions of his childhood and horrifying experiences as a slave as well as a harrowing record of his dramatic escape to the North and eventual freedom. Published in 1845 to quell doubts about his origins — since few slaves of that period could write — the Narrative is admired today for its extraordinary passion, sensitive and vivid descriptions and storytelling power. It belongs in the library of anyone interested in African-American history and the life of one of the country's most courageous and influential champions of civil rights. – Amazon.com

2. Secondary TEXT (CHOOSE ONE ONLY):

Choose ONE of the following authors/texts to explore. If you cannot find these texts or cannot afford to access them, please contact me 😊 - I've got you.

- *DAMN.* by Kendrick Lamar
 - Explore all songs on the album **AS POETRY**
 - For the sake of making analytical connections with *Narrative of Frederick Douglass*, you may consult songs on other albums than *DAMN.*
 - Do not select Kendrick Lamar because you think it is the “easiest” option. His work is equally as complex as the other secondary text options.

- *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead (novel)
 - **Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, Colson Whitehead's magnificent tour de force chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.**

In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom.

... *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share. – Amazon.com

- Consider watching the Amazon Prime TV series based on this novel

- *Passing* by Nella Larsen (short novella)
 - **Nella Larsen's powerful, classic, thrilling, and tragic tale about the fluidity of racial identity that continues to resonate today.**

Clare Kendry is living on the edge. Light-skinned, elegant, and ambitious, she is married to a racist white man unaware of her African American heritage and has severed all ties to her past after deciding to “pass” as a white woman. Clare's childhood friend, Irene Redfield, just as light-skinned, has chosen to remain within the African American community, and is simultaneously allured and repelled by Clare's risky decision to engage in racial masquerade for personal and societal gain. After frequenting African American-centric gatherings together in Harlem, Clare's interest in Irene turns into a romantic attraction and a longing for Irene's black identity that she abandoned and can never embrace again, and she is forced to grapple with her decision to pass for white in a way that is both tragic and telling. – Amazon.com

- Consider watching the film version of this novella on Netflix

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Writing Assignment:

You will complete this writing assignment and bring it with you to revise and edit the first week of class next school year.

Select TWO of the questions below to respond to:

EACH response should be between 400-500 words.

EACH response should address the chosen question and be supported by direct textual evidence.

1. In his autobiography, Douglass describes two different kinds of freedom: while *legal* freedom can be given or taken away by the government (or an institution), *personal* freedom is something that comes from within. Compare and contrast how Douglass and your chosen author represent the distinction between legal and personal freedom?
2. Frederick Douglass believed that all people are created equal. But he also believed that we weren't just born free: we have to *make* ourselves into who we are. In order to be truly free, Douglass pursues education. What does Douglass convey about the nature of education? How does your chosen author explore this same theme of the value of education?
3. What is Douglass's perspective on religion, both as an institution and as personal spirituality? Does his disclaimer in the appendix challenge the narrative, or just offer a guide to interpreting it? How do his views on religion compare to the views of your chosen author?
4. The underlying assumption and philosophy of Douglass' *Narrative* is that humans can (and must) create their own destiny. Compare and contrast Douglass' philosophy on destiny and fate with your chosen author's.
5. Compare Douglass's depiction of the struggle of African Americans in America with the narrative of your chosen author. In what ways can Douglass's influence be seen in these more modern works? Do their perspectives on American life differ from one another and how so?
6. How do Douglass and your chosen author connect violence and power in their respective narratives (either as a means for oppression, like with Aunt Hester in Chapter I, or as a means for self-empowerment, like with Covey in Chapter X)?

Written Response Rubric			
Content & Analysis			
0 - Insufficient	1 - Partially Sufficient	2 - Sufficient	3 - Exemplary
Below 34	35-39	40 - 44	45-50
<p>Answer: --not based on selections --not reasonable --too general or vague to see if it is reasonable --incomplete or irrelevant textual evidence from one or both selections --incorrect or vague analysis of text --lacks clarity</p>	<p>Answer: --reasonable assertions based on both selections but general, incomplete, or partially accurate/relevant textual evidence from one or both selections, or no support at all --evidence from both selections is only weakly connected --accurate/relevant evidence from both selections with no idea or analysis/evaluation --somewhat unclear/vague or show trouble making connections b/w selections</p>	<p>Answer: --reasonable assertions based on both selections with accurate/relevant textual support from both selections --reasonable analysis/evaluation of textual characteristic based on both selections with accurate/relevant textual support from both selections --clear and specific connections across selections</p>	<p>Answer: --particularly thoughtful or insightful idea based on both selections, strongly supported with accurate/relevant textual evidence from both selections --particularly thoughtful or insightful analysis of textual characteristic based on both selections, strongly supported with accurate/relevant textual evidence from both selections --student can make meaningful connections across selections --demonstrate student's depth of understanding --effective connection of evidence to idea/analysis/evaluation</p>
Grammar & Structure			
0 - Insufficient	1 - Partially Sufficient	2 - Sufficient	3 - Exemplary
Below 34	35-39	40 - 44	45-50
<p>Answer: -- Entry falters in three or more of the particulars: it may not sufficiently place passage in literal context, it may not blend words/phrases from passage into entry, or transitions between sentences may be unclear. -- Style falters in three or more particulars: syntax may lack variation, sentences may rely on passive or be verbs, vocabulary may be vague or immature, grammar/mechanics might demonstrate errors.</p>	<p>Answer: -- Entry falters in two or more of the particulars: it may not sufficiently place passage in literal context, it may not blend words/phrases from passage into entry, or transitions between sentences may be unclear. -- Style falters in two or more particulars: syntax may lack variation, sentences may rely on passive or be verbs, vocabulary may be vague or immature, grammar/mechanics might demonstrate errors.</p>	<p>Answer: -- Entry falters in one or more of the particulars: it may not sufficiently place passage in literal context, it may not blend words/phrases from passage into entry, or transitions between sentences may be unclear. -- Style is generally clear, but it falters in one or more of the particulars: syntax may lack variation, sentences may rely on passive or be verbs, vocabulary may be vague or immature, grammar/mechanics might demonstrate errors.</p>	<p>Answer: -- Entry follows expository paragraph form: a clear topic sentence relating to the passage, transition places passage in literal context, sentences blend words/phrases from passage into analysis, clear transitions between sentences (word glue) -- Style is mature and clear: sentences show varied syntax, strong verbs, precise vocabulary, and grammatical/mechanical correctness.</p>