

ENGLISH II - HONORS

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS 2020

Dear English II Honors Students,

Welcome to a brand new year. At ACC, we are looking forward to a wonderful and challenging year for all of you. As part of your preparation for next year, you are assigned two summer novels to read. These thought-provoking novels and the related assignments will provide you with the necessary practice to sharpen and maintain your critical reading skills. Your assignments are as follows:

Brother I'm Dying by Edwidge Danticat

Brother I'm Dying is a memoir written by Haitian author Edwidge Danticat about her family's experience of coming to America and the reasons behind leaving their homeland.

Life of Pi by Martel, Yann. ISBN: 978-1841954257

The Life of Pi is the story about the journey of a young Indian man. It has also been made into a movie. Nevertheless, I recommend that you stay away from the movie or summaries from the internet and read the book. Summaries and movies are not the same. When reading a summary, you cannot appreciate literary elements used by the author or his writing style.

Please purchase a hard or paperback copy of the novels. Also, read and carefully follow the instructions for the assignments which are designed to help prepare you for the first quarter of the school year. Annotations in the novels will be checked the first week of school. All assignments will be collected on the first day of school, without exception. If you have any questions, please email me at lbehrens@colemancarroll.org.

Have a fun, relaxing summer, enjoy your reading selections, and we'll see you in August!

Many blessings,

Ms. Laura Behrens
Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School

Part I:

Brother I'm Dying

As you read the novel, please do the following:

1. highlight events and ideas that you consider important.
2. Make notations on the margin, write questions you may have, and annotate any important information about the characters.
3. Research information from an outside source on immigration that correlates with events in the novel.
4. Circle vocabulary words you do not understand and define them. W
5. Write (not type) a 3 page informative/response essay on the novel. See information on the essay as listed below.

Part II:

Life of Pi

As you read, please do the following:

1. Highlight events and ideas that you consider important
2. Make notations on the margin, write questions you may have, and important information about the characters.
3. Research at least three (3) articles about events that happened in the story (for example, Pi's extraordinary story of survival, the sinking of the Tsimtsim, the floating island, the incident with the cook, his rescue at sea...)
4. Write a one (1) page response on how the articles connect with the reading.
5. Circle all vocabulary words you do not understand and define them.

Part III:

You will be required to write a three (3) page informative/response paper on *Brother, I'm Dying*. The first half of the essay should be informative; the second half of the essay should be responsive.

An informative essay is to educate on a certain topic. It is not giving an opinion on a topic or convincing someone to do something or change his/her beliefs. Discuss how the outside sources relate to the plot in the novel. (Remember that information based on the immigration articles should be cited and referenced to a Works Cited List for the source used).

A response paper is your chance to communicate your personal viewpoint on the topics explored in the novel and discuss your personal connection to the story.

The following information should be included in your essay:

Title and Author:

Date of Publication:

Genre and Characteristics of the Genre : What is the genre of the book and what are the characteristics of that genre?

Historical Information: When does the novel take place and what socially or culturally significant events are occurring?

Biographical Information: What are some of the important facts about the author?

Plot Summary: What are the main or most important events that occur in the novel?
Beginning, Middle, End

Memorable Quotes: Write down **3 quotes** from the beginning, middle, and the end of the novel and explain why they are important to the story.

Characters : Write down the name, role, and a description of the main characters and 2-3 adjectives which describe each of them.

Connections : To what aspect, part, or incident in the book did you most relate? Did you make a connection to any of the characters? If so, explain. Were there any incidents or events that could relate to a personal experience of yours? Explain.

*****See essay rubric attached as to how the essay assignment will be graded.***

Literary Analysis Rubric

CATEGORY	4 Excellent	3 Good	2 Adequate	1 Needs Improvement	Score
Attention Grabber	The introductory paragraph has a strong hook or attention grabber that is appropriate for the audience. This could be a strong statement, a relevant quotation, statistic, or question addressed to the reader.	The introductory paragraph has a hook or attention grabber, but it is weak, rambling or inappropriate for the audience.	The author has an interesting introductory paragraph but the connection to the topic is not clear.	The introductory paragraph is not interesting AND is not relevant to the topic.	
Focus or Thesis Statement	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay without being formulaic.	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay.	The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed but does not name the topic.	The thesis statement does not name the topic AND does not preview what will be discussed.	
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's thesis.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's thesis.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's thesis.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.	
Closing paragraph	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.	The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.	There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.	
Conventions	Author makes no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	
Citations	A Works Cited Page is included in MLA format, and parenthetical citations are used in MLA format.	A Works Cited Page is included, and parenthetical citations are used.	A Works Cited Page is included but no parenthetical citations are evident.	No Work Cited Page is included.	