

Steamboat Springs High School

Summer Reading Assignment Literature and Word Studies Class 2009 -2010

Welcome to the Literature and Word Studies class for 2009-2010! This summer's reading will help you focus on your personal enjoyment of reading because the book(s) you read are to be chosen by you. Consider reading books you've had on your bookshelf for a while but haven't had the time yet to read; books that have been recommended to you by a friend; or just a book that captures your interest as you browse through the library or local book stores. Return to school in August prepared to discuss your book(s). Although it is not necessary to buy these books, this is a good opportunity for you to either begin building or adding to your personal library of books. **Note that you will need to bring a copy of the books you read this summer to class during the first week of school.**

Reading Assignment: Over the summer you need to read at least 500 pages. This may be one long or several shorter books. If you are enrolled in another English class for this year (WHISL, American Studies, Modern Writing & Literature or AP English), you may NOT read a book for this class that you are reading for another class. The counseling office, public library, bookstore have a list of books used in other courses. Have fun with these book choices and think of this assignment as finally being able to read something you want to read!

Writing Assignment: You need to write ONE book review that is due the FIRST day of class. This review may be written on any ONE of the books you have read for this class. Please follow the book review format found on the back of this sheet. Note the book information that must be written at the top left-hand side of your paper, as well as the exact content for each of the three required paragraphs. This typed book review must be brought, along with a copy of each of the book(s) you read, on the first day of class in August.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Jenny Gabriel, 846-6786

Mrs. Maggie Glueck, 879-5295

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Literature and Word Studies continued

Book Title

Author

Publisher, Copyright date, number of pages, price

Genre (fiction, mystery, suspense, adventure, biography, autobiography, non-fiction science, non-fiction history, science fiction, fantasy, chick lit, etc.)

Book reviews give us an opportunity to critically analyze and tell about a piece of literature or non-fiction book with which we have spent some of our time. Your book review should include a thoughtful evaluation and articulation of each of the following areas. This information should be written in three (or more) paragraphs, in regular format/font. Type the above four lines of information on the left-hand side of the paper, single-spaced. The content of the paper will be 1 ½ - 2 pages long (longer is ok, but shorter is not), double-spaced.

1) Theme. Every book has a purpose and every author has a message that (s)he wants to share with an audience. Begin your book review by telling what you believe was the author's purpose in writing this book. What did (s)he want the reader to know about or learn about? What did the author want to tell the reader about people or places in this world? What did the author want the reader to learn about himself/herself? What lessons about life and people was the author trying to teach? (Note: Even in the realm of science fiction and fantasy there are lessons to be learned). This is your first paragraph-explaining why the author wrote the book and what (s)he hoped the readers would get out of it.

2) Usually a book review includes a "summary" or "retelling" of the plot, or what happened in the book. Instead of starting at the beginning of the book and telling everything that happened, start this paragraph out with explaining the **conflict** in the book. **Conflict** is the problem or struggle in a story that triggers the action (person vs. person; person vs. society; person vs. self; person vs. nature; person vs. fate-an uncontrollable problem). After you have explained the conflict, write four or five of the main events that led to the solving or resolution of the conflict. By showing how the conflict was solved, you will be telling the end of the story. This information concludes paragraph two.

Non-fiction book option for paragraph two: Briefly explain the book's contents and describe the book's major arguments. You may want to explain how the author set up (organized) the book in order to present the material in the best possible way. What is the book saying and how is the book saying it?

3) Value of the book. In this last paragraph, tell how you felt about the book and why. Is this a book you want to keep on your own personal shelf and recommend to others or are you happy it is finished? The important part of this paragraph is your explanation. What did the author do (or not do) to keep you interested? What made it a good story or an informative book? Why was it meaningful to you? Could you make connections to your own life that you found valuable? (text-self; text-text; text-world) If you didn't like the book, be explicit in your explanation. Could the author have made it better by doing anything different? Who else besides you would find it a valuable read?

--Your name at the bottom of the paper