

The Cumberland School
High School Summer Reading List
English 12

Students who will be in grade 12 for the 2019-2020 school year must read **EITHER** one of the plays **OR** one of the novel choices below, do a written assignment for the chosen play or novel, and take a quiz over it.

1. You will take the quiz over your chosen novel or play during your second regular English class of the first semester.
2. The written assignment is to keep a responsive journal for your chosen book/play. The journal will be graded and must be turned in to your English teacher on the second regular day of English class. Follow the directions below on how to create your responsive journal.

Drama choices: Choose **ONE: (Both are available to read free online.)**

Much Ado about Nothing (William Shakespeare): Does he love her? Does she love him? Love never has a smooth path in Shakespeare's comedies!

The Merchant of Venice (William Shakespeare): High finance, love, prejudice, and disguise, all in one comedy

OR

Novel choices: Choose **ONE:**

1984 (George Orwell): Published in 1949, a novel about a dystopian future. Big Brother is watching you!

The Scarlet Pimpernel (Baroness Orczy): He doesn't exactly have super-powers, but the dashing hero does have a secret identity.

And Then There Were None (Agatha Christie): One of Christie's most famous mysteries, this one made the PBS list of 100 novels on *The Great American Read*.

Responsive Journal Assignment: Active reading is a kind of dialogue with the author. Using a responsive journal encourages active reading: attending to detail, reflective questioning, drawing conclusions, and connecting to prior knowledge or life experiences.

You will do a Journal for the play or novel that you read.

Directions for the Journal:

1. Print out copies of the double-column page following these instructions, or create a similar one. You will probably need multiple pages.
2. Divide your novel (or play) into 5 (approximately) equal sections and, as you read, write a double-column response for each section. (For example, if your novel is 200 pages, you would write a double-column response for every 40 pages.)
3. As you read, write down, in the left ("Text") column, **passages of text from your novel or play that seem significant to you. Copy the passage exactly, including quotation marks and page numbers (or, for plays, Act and scene numbers).** The passages should be complete sentences or multiple sentences, not just phrases.

What kinds of passages should you choose to write down? Some suggestions:

- When a new character is introduced or you learn something significant about him.
- When an event or situation in the plot surprises you or causes you to react strongly.
- When you agree or disagree with something a character does.
- When you notice something important about the writer's style.
- When you think the passage reveals or supports a main theme of the novel.

4. In the right column, ("Reflections"), write **your response to the quoted passage of text**. Some types of responses might be

- Your analysis of the character, based on the passage.
- Your emotional reaction to the quotation or event (Are you surprised? shocked? disagreeing with a character's choice? Say **why** you react this way.)
- WHY you agree or disagree with what the character did or said
- Your analysis of the writer's style, as shown in the quoted text.
- What theme the passage of text supports, and how it supports that theme.
- A connection from the passage to real life, especially to your own life, or to current events.
- Your prediction about the outcome of the event, along with your reasons for your predictions

****YOUR RESPONSE MUST NOT SIMPLY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE QUOTED TEXT. Each response should show **thought** and **reflection**, should be in **complete sentences**, and should be about 40-50 words. This journal will be graded for thoroughness and quality of response.**

Your quotations and responses must come from your own reading, not outside sources.

EXAMPLE of a double-column entry (This one shows character analysis.):

TEXT

RESPONSE

<p>Justine started...and said, "Dear Sir, your are very kind to visit me; you, I hope, do not believe that I am guilty." I could not answer. "No, Justine," said Elizabeth; "he is more convinced of your innocence than I was...." (67)</p>	<p>The passage is deeply ironic. Victor Frankenstein is getting credit for supporting Justine's innocence in a child's murder case, but actually he knows that it was his monster who committed the murder, and he is too much of a coward to admit his guilt as the monster's creator. Victor appears cowardly and self-centered. (53 words)</p>
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TEXT

RESPONSE

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