

INCOMING SENIORS
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT #1: LITERARY ELEMENTS AND TECHNIQUES
(for one choice book)

FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR EACH OF THE 10 LITERARY TERMS. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES (SEPTEMBER 6, 2011). IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS FIRST CLASS. NOT HAVING IT ON DAY ONE WILL RESULT IN A ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT.

- 1.) **Dramatic Irony**- Describe an example of dramatic irony in the story. Explain how the words and actions of the characters have a different meaning for the reader than they do for the characters.
- 2.) **Idiom**- Identify an idiom in the story, and record the sentence in which it appears. OR, record a sentence from the book and rewrite it by replacing a phrase with an idiom. Explain how the phrase or expression (either from the text or the one you inserted) means something different than what the words actually say.
- 3.) **Denotation/Connotation**- Record a sentence from the text that contains a word with connotations. Underline the word, and record the literal or dictionary definition of it. Then indicate what the word suggests beyond its literal meaning.
- 4.) **Pun**- Identify a pun in the story, and record the sentence in which it appears. OR, create your own pun that relates to some aspect of the story. Explain how the joke comes from a play on words.
- 5.) **Satire**- Describe an aspect of the book that is satirical. Explain which ideas, customs, behaviors, or institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of improving society or human behavior.
- 6.) **Style**- Describe the author's style. Explain what is unique about his or her way of communicating ideas. Record a sentence or passage from the text that demonstrates this style.
- 7.) **Understatement**- Identify an example of understatement in the story, and record the sentence in which it appears. OR, make up your own example of an understatement that relates to some aspect of the book. Explain how the statement creates emphasis by saying less than is actually or literally true.
- 8.) **Archetype**- Describe an archetype that exists in the story. Explain why you chose this image, descriptive detail, plot pattern, character type, or theme. In other words, in what other pieces of literature have you seen this archetype represented?
- 9.) **Allegory**- Identify a character or an object that represents an idea or generalization about life. Indicate what it represents, and explain what the moral is or what the reader should learn from it.
- 10.) **Paradox/Oxymoron**- Identify a paradox in the story, and record the sentence in which it appears. OR, make up your own example of a paradox that relates to some aspect of the story. Explain how the statement seems to contradict itself but actually reveals some element of truth.

NOTES:

- Write in COMPLETE sentences.
- YOU MUST TYPE YOUR WORK. Create your own chart based on the sample provided, or download the chart from the English Department's web page (www.wakefield.k12.ma.us -> Wakefield High -> Departments -> English -> Summer Reading Lists). You do not necessarily have to put your work in text boxes, but you must answer all parts for each literary term. Writing your responses in paragraph form without boxes, for example, is acceptable.
- Double-space your work. Use a font style of Times or Times New Roman and a font size no larger than 12 points.
- PROOFREAD. NO SPELLING ERRORS.
- Follow directions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the 10 literary terms.
- Convince your English teacher that you read the book. Be thorough in all of your descriptions and explanations.

NOTES (continued):

- Complete this assignment for a work of *fiction*. You will probably have difficulty completing this assignment based on a work of nonfiction, a book of poetry, or a graphic novel. If you choose one of these books, use it for the second assignment that your English teacher will give you at the beginning of the school year.
- EVERYTHING should be in your own words (except for the parts that you record verbatim from the text). Include only original ideas! No ideas should come from SparkNotes, for example.
- Put quotation marks around words and passages that you record verbatim from the text. Also, include the page number in parentheses at the end of any quoted material in the following way: ...” (21).
- Study the following chart in order to better understand the terms **before** reading the book so that you know what you are looking for in the text. Take notes on parts of the book that provide evidence of the literary terms. This will help you when completing the chart.

LITERARY TERMS

<p>DRAMATIC IRONY- when the words and actions of the characters have a different meaning for the reader than they do for the characters; this is the result of the reader having a greater knowledge than the characters themselves.</p> <p>Example: In Nathaniel Hawthorne's <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>, when Hester is in the governor's garden to see to it that Pearl is not taken away from her, she asks the Reverend Dimmesdale to support her position. This is an example of dramatic irony as the reader knows that Dimmesdale and Hester are partners in sin, but the characters do not.</p>	<p>STYLE- the particular way in which a piece of literature is written; the writer's unique way of communicating ideas; includes not only what is said but also how it is said; elements contributing to style include word choice, sentence length, tone, figurative language, and use of dialogue</p> <p>Example: Ernest Hemingway's prose is written in short, declarative sentences. He was known for his concise, and sometimes abrupt, style.</p>
<p>IDIOM- a phrase or expression that means something different than what the words actually say</p> <p>Example: using "over his head" for "he doesn't understand"</p>	<p>UNDERSTATEMENT- a technique of creating emphasis by saying less than is actually or literally true; the opposite of hyperbole or exaggeration; can be used to create humor and satire</p> <p>Example: From J.D. Salinger's <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>: "It isn't very serious. I have this tiny little tumor on the brain."</p>
<p>DENOTATION/CONNOTATION- The denotation is the literal or dictionary definition of a word; the connotation refers to the feelings and attitudes associated with the word.</p> <p>Example: A <i>home</i> is defined as "one's place of residence," but it connotes a feeling of comfort and security. <i>House</i> is defined as "a building that serves as living quarters," but it does not connote the same warmth and safety that <i>home</i> suggests.</p>	<p>ARCHETYPE- an image, a descriptive detail, a plot pattern, or a character type that occurs frequently in literature and is, therefore, believed to evoke profound emotions</p> <p>Example: The scapegoat figure is the one who is blamed for everything, regardless of whether he or she is actually at fault. Snowball, from George Orwell's <i>Animal Farm</i>, is an example of this archetype.</p>
<p>PUN- a joke that comes from a play on words; can make use of a word's multiple meanings or a word's rhyme</p> <p>Examples: Phone Users Have No Hang-ups; New Spray Bugs Farmers; Three Booked in Library Dispute</p>	<p>ALLEGORY- a story in which people, things, and actions represent an idea or generalization about life; often have a strong moral or lesson</p> <p>Example: In William Golding's <i>Lord of the Flies</i>, for example, the boys represent the inherent savagery in humans.</p>
<p>SATIRE- a literary technique in which ideas, customs, behaviors, or institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of improving society; may be gently witty, mildly abrasive, or bitterly critical; often uses exaggeration for effect</p> <p>Example: George Orwell's <i>Animal Farm</i> satirizes Stalinist Russia.</p>	<p>PARADOX/OXYMORON- a statement that seems to contradict itself but actually reveals some element of truth; a special kind of paradox is the oxymoron, which brings together two contradictory terms</p> <p>Examples: <i>cruel kindness</i> and <i>icy hot</i></p>