

Summer Assignment 2020 FOR AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

A NOTE ABOUT AUTHENTICITY: While a lot of information may be found online, I want YOUR work, YOUR voice, YOUR insights ALWAYS. I cannot help you to improve if it is not your work I am seeing.

****Honor Code****

As this is a MAJOR ASSIGNMENT: When you submit your assignment, copy and paste this at the end of your work, then digitally sign it.

“I certify that no unauthorized assistance has been received or given in the completion of this work. All work shown is my own.”

DUE September 8th

Reading:

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer - Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is an inventor, amateur entomologist, Francophile, letter writer, pacifist, natural historian, percussionist, romantic, Great Explorer, jeweller, detective, vegan, and collector of butterflies. When his father is killed in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Centre, Oskar sets out to solve the mystery of a key he discovers in his father's closet. It is a search which leads him into the lives of strangers, through the five boroughs of New York, into history, to the bombings of Dresden and Hiroshima, and on an inward journey which brings him ever closer to some kind of peace.

You are welcome to purchase a copy of the book for yourself or to read an [ONLINE TEXT](#) version. While you read, you may want to take notes as you go (these will not be graded). If you are a slow reader, I suggest you read along with a spoken copy of the book to keep you moving.

Assignment:

Create 10-15 reading log entries as you read (at different moments in the book) to show how you are working to engage with and interpret the text AS A WHOLE, so be sure to include entries that show you have read the whole book. THESE SHOULD NOT BE SUMMARIES. Each entry should be between 300 and 500 words and are intended to help you retain the main elements within the text. Please vary the focus of your responses.

As you write these, please title each entry with the chapter/pages you're discussing as well as which approach you are taking so I know what you intend.

Take this opportunity to play with analysis, take risks and see what comes out. Use quotes from the text, highlight specific chapters or events, name other works if they connect with the text! Show off what you know and attempt to explore what you don't. Some *possible* topics to include or focus on are:

Early in the book:

- **Setting:** Consider when and where the book takes place and how that fits with the events and situations that begin the novel. Think about *why* the author made these choices.
- **Characterization:** *the method a writer uses to familiarize the reader with the characters in a work; authors use what characters say, do, think along with what they look like and what others*

say/think of them to do this. Explain how the author builds a clear vision of one of the characters using these methods, perhaps one that you can connect to?

- **The Norm:** *The exposition of a novel often works to establish what “normal” is for characters and situations prior to the larger conflict being introduced - what does the “normal” for this book look and feel like? What do those details set up for in the plot? Explore how the author builds that picture.*

As you continue through the book:

- **Elements of Structure** – *speak to the way the author has organized the book, are there echoes of the same moments throughout? Are elements written as letters? Is the timeline chronological or mixed up? How do these impact the reader’s experience?*
- **Point of View/Shifts** – *the vantage point from which the story is told; how does the story get told? Is it one perspective? Multiple? Is there a separate narrator? How do these choices impact certain moments?*
- **Character development** - *look to and discuss new elements of the characters - how are they shifting and changing in response to the events as they unfold?*
- **Conflict(s)** – *a struggle between two opposing forces; explore some moments of conflict that you notice including internal (man vs. himself) and external (man vs. man, man vs. society, man vs. nature), how do they work to propel the plot or develop/change a character?*
- **Literary Techniques & powerful passages** – *Respond to and analyze an impactful literary device, quote or passage in terms of its impact on scene/character development or impact on the reader. What is it that makes the passage so powerful? How does the author create that effect?*
- **The author’s voice/style:** *What stands out to you in terms of the way the author creates a unique voice (as a whole) or emotional tone (in specific moments)?*

As you conclude your reading:

- **New Normal:** *Just as the start of the novel establishes the normal before the conflict and character development, the end creates a new normal once the events have unfolded. What kind of new normal is built by the author - does it fit with the way that the characters have changed? Is it surprising?*
- **Theme** – *the main idea or message of a literary work; there are often multiple larger ideas and messages from the author within a text, what larger questions and/or statements do scenes create? what is the author saying about the nature of the human experience?*
- **Title’s Significance** – *identify how the title relates to the work...consider foreshadowing if applicable and/or how it fits with the larger ideas in a scene or section of the novel (or various points)*

Regarding personal Reactions:

You are welcome to explore personal reflections and connections you make with the novel, but do so in a way that is not ONLY personal - point to choices the author makes and how they affect you rather than writing a personal journal entry about your life. Mix your connections to the text with elements present within it.

- **Things that make you go hmmm:** *Are there moments or passages that make you think? Moments that you feel are significant but you aren’t sure why? Explore and ponder them!!*
- **Bring what you know to the table:** *Consider moments, chapters, characters, etc. that remind you of something else you’ve read and talk about that connection.*
- **I hear that:** *Explore a connection to a moment, a character, a passage and talk about what the author does and what it ties to in your life.*

This will be graded holistically 1-6 (as your work will be throughout the year) based on how you work with the material to show your understanding of the book, that you read the whole thing, and how you attempt to analyze the author's choices and dig into the text in an academic way.

THIS WILL BE A MAJOR ASSIGNMENT GRADE FOR THE FIRST MARKING PERIOD!