

Gifted English 9 & 10 Independent Reading Assignment

Each set of activities focuses on one literary element:

- *character*
- *setting*
- *conflict*
- *style*
- *theme*

Activities 1 and 2 always focus on quotations and vocabulary from the text. Activity 3 is a more creative activity related to the literary focus of the assignment.

1. Quotation Analysis:

Choose two quotations that aptly illustrate the literary element of focus. Explain the significance of the quotation in a brief paragraph.

2. Vocabulary Activity:

Locate **five** words in your reading that you would like to incorporate into your own vocabulary.

- Write the sentence from the book with the word in it and indicate page number in a parenthetical citation.
- Identify the part of speech of the word and at least one alternate form of the word. (If the word is an adjective, find the adverb form.)
- Record the definition(s) of the word. If multiple definitions exist, choose the definition(s) that fits the context of the book's sentence.
- Locate at least one synonym for the word.
- Create a grammatically correct sentence of your own using the new word in proper context.

3. Creative Task:

Complete a creative activity of literary analysis.

Due Dates:

- characterization assignment 23-24 February
- setting assignment 16-17 March
- conflict assignment 13-14 April
- style assignment 27-28 April
- theme assignment 11-12 May

Characterization Assignment

1. Select two quotations that clearly portray the character of the protagonist. In your analysis of each quotation, focus on explaining how the passage illustrates a specific aspect (identified by a precise adjective) of the protagonist's character.
2. Complete the vocabulary tasks for five words that you choose from your reading.
3. Create a personalized license plate for the protagonist, which may contain no punctuation marks or symbols and which consists of no more than seven letters, seven numbers, or a combination thereof. Explain why your license plate is apt for the character.

Setting Assignment

1. Select two quotations that reveal the setting in your novel. Explain what the quotations suggest about the setting and its impact on the protagonist and plot. Remember that setting is much more than location and may include social environment, occupations, culture, and moral attitudes.
2. Complete the vocabulary tasks for five words that you choose from your reading.

3. Design a video game for the protagonist of the literary work. Explain the different elements of setting that the main character encounters (especially physical, social, and cultural boundaries), and describe the ultimate goal or objective for the game.

OR

Identify four physical objects that are essential to the setting of the work and which represent one of the elements of setting listed below. For each, explain what the object reveals about the specific element of setting and how the object helps to evoke a mood or atmosphere in the work.

Specific elements of the setting include:

- the geographical location (its topography, scenery, and physical arrangements),
- the occupations and daily manner of living of the characters,
- the time period in which the action takes place (epoch in history or season of the year), and
- the general environment of the characters (social, religious, cultural, moral, and emotional conditions and attitudes).

Conflict Assignment

1. Select two quotations that describe crucial conflict in your work. Explain what the quotations reveal about the *internal* or *external* conflict (be specific in identifying them) that the protagonist experiences and describe the significance of this conflict to the meaning of the work.
2. Complete the vocabulary tasks for five words that you choose from your reading.
3. Write five headlines that describe conflicts (their causes and effects) in this section of your reading. Be sure to use a vivid verb in each headline to clearly capture the action of the section. Here's an example to describe conflict in *Beowulf*: "Beast attacks mead hall, butchers thirty warriors." For each headline, write an explanation about the two forces in opposition.

Style Assignment

1. Select two quotations as examples the author's style (point of view, syntax, diction, tone, allusion, figurative language, imagery, repetition, etc.). Explain how the style of the quotation enhances the meaning of the quotation.
2. Complete the vocabulary tasks for five words that you choose from your reading.
3. Choose a passage from the novel in which the diction or imagery is particularly vivid—one that describes either a character or an aspect of setting. Then, rewrite the passage with the intent of changing the *tone* or *mood* completely.

OR

Reveal the growth and development of a character from your work. Write a description of the character's transformation using figurative language (metaphor, simile, hyperbole, understatement, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, allusion). Following your description, identify which literary device(s) you have used.

Theme Assignment

1. Select two quotations that most clearly reveal the theme in your work. In your analysis of each quotation, write a theme statement (following the format we've learned) and explain how the quotation reveals the meaning and relates to the protagonist's growth.
2. Complete the vocabulary tasks for five words that you choose from your reading.
3. Choose a song or poem whose theme parallels the theme of the novel. Include the lyrics, writer's name, and performer's name; compose a theme statement for the literary work that is illustrated by the song or poem; and explain how the song or poem you have chosen mirrors the novel's central idea by referring to specific elements of the novel and song or poem.

AND

Write a persuasive email to the senior class about what central idea this book has taught you. Your task is to convince them to read this book. Follow proper email format by following the instructions on page 313 of *Writers INC*.