

AP English Literature and Composition

Fall break bonus assignment

The Misanthrope (pages 1218 to 1266 in *Perrine's Literature*)

Alceste, the Misanthrope, is disgusted with human society for its hypocrisy, corruption, and manipulateness. He is concerned with honesty and cannot abide the façade that those around him display and prefer to the truth. Ironically, however, he is in love Célimène, a flirtatious woman whose insincerity has secured her a number of suitors.

Double-Entry Journal:

While independently reading Molière's play, you will complete a response journal with 9 entries. Following the model below from "The Story of the Three Bears," number each entry, write the quotation including page number, identify the type of connection, and compose a response of at least two sentences.

- **Personal Connection**

Contemplate how the quotation connects to some aspect of your personal knowledge and experience. The quotation may remind you of a situation you have been in, seen, or read about.

- **Intratextual Connection**

Reflect on how the quotation connects to another passage (which you also cite) from the same text. Think about ways in which the connected passages emphasize character, setting, conflict, or another element of the work.

- **Intertextual Connection**

Ponder how the quotation connects to another text (literature, myth, film, media, music, art, historical event, or current event). Consider similarities that the two texts share (characterization, mood, plot, setting, theme, tone), and discuss how the two texts relate to one another.

Quotation		Connection	
1	"If Goldilocks had remembered what her mother had told her, she would have waited till the Bears came home, and then, perhaps, they would have asked her to breakfast; for they were good Bears--a little rough, as the manner of Bears is, but for all that very good-natured and hospitable. But Goldilocks forgot, and set about helping herself." (page 1, paragraph 2)	personal	As a child, I had—and still do have—a strong memory. I did not, as Goldilocks does, forget my mother's advice. I simply chose to ignore it often and make my own decisions. Thus, negative consequences were often crucial learning experiences for me.
2	"She had never seen the little house before, and it was such a strange little house that she forgot all the things her mother had told her about being polite: first she looked in at the window, and then she peeped in at the keyhole; and seeing nobody in the house, she lifted the latch." (page 1, paragraph 2)	intratextual	At the end of the story, Goldilocks runs "home to her mother, as fast as ever she could" (page 2, paragraph 15). Though she failed to listen to her mother's advice at the beginning of her journey, Goldilocks ends her ordeal by seeking the comfort of home and her mother.
3	"Then Goldilocks went upstairs into the bed-chamber in which the Three Bears slept. And first she lay down upon the bed of the Great Huge Bear; but that was too high at the head for her. And next she lay down upon the bed of the Middle-sized Bear, and that was too high at the foot for her. And then she lay down upon the bed of the Little Small Wee Bear; and that was neither too high at the head nor at the foot, but just right. So she covered herself up comfortably, and lay there till she fell fast asleep." (page 1, paragraph 5)	intertextual	Despite being warned repeatedly about politeness by her mother, Goldilocks cannot seem to control her selfish desires. The story suggests that Goldilocks, fast asleep, may be punished for her lack of self-control, much like those who have committed sins of personal weakness and are plagued by heavy winds and rain in the upper level of hell in Dante's <i>Inferno</i> .

Vocabulary Acquisition:

During your reading, you will locate 10 words that are unfamiliar to you and that you would like to incorporate into your own vocabulary.

1. Write the sentence from the play with the word in it and indicate page number in a parenthetical citation.
2. Write the definition(s) of the word. If multiple definitions exist, choose the definition that fits the context of the play's sentence.
3. Create a sentence of your own using the new word in proper context.

Essay Topics:

Choose one of the following prompts, and compose a well-written essay (including a minimum of six supporting quotations) in response.

1. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Discuss how Alceste's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions and moral values.
2. In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas or behavior of the minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Choose a minor character from *The Misanthrope* who serves as a foil to a main character. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the relation between the minor character and the major character illuminates the meaning of the work.