

AP English Literature and Composition spring break 2011 BONUS assignment

The Misanthrope

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.

Literary Analysis:

The Misanthrope is a satire and, as a representative of that genre, directs light upon the weaknesses of humanity. Through humor, the play forces us to examine our own lives and contemplate necessary changes to society.

1. Record ten quotations that are **satirical**. Explain how each quotation reveals a weakness of humanity and humorously mocks human beings.
2. Compose two different **theme statements** for the play following our format. Provide two supporting quotations for each statement.

Vocabulary Application:

You have learned over 120 words that will allow you to precisely describe tone and character. As the AP Exam looms, you need to practice using those words so that your writing is rich and detailed.

1. Write a one-paragraph analysis of one of the main characters in the play; your aim is to reveal the **character's complexity**. Use at least six vocabulary words in your writing.
2. Write a well-organized **synopsis of the plot**, highlighting **conflict**, **climax**, and **resolution**. Use at least ten vocabulary words in your summary.

Essay Topics:

Choose one of the following prompts, and compose a well-written essay (including a minimum of four 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.