Weaver Academy 2009 Summer Reading for Honors English 12

Choose One (Assignment Page follows Choices for Honors English 12

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

In recounting the courtship of the witty, independent Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, the handsome bachelor whose arrogant pride Elizabeth regards as a fatal flaw, Austin illuminates, with subtle humor, the prejudices of society as a whole.

Othello, William Shakespeare

This is an intense tragedy which explores racial and social prejudices fueled by a jealous obsession which is as brilliant as it is insane. "Honest Iago" is the quintessential villain who preys on the weaknesses of the innocent, entangling all in his wicked web of deceit.

Lord of the Flies, William Golding

After their plane crashes, killing all the adults on board, a group of young English boys find themselves in a new world, an uninhabited tropical island. The struggle for survival and power immediately begins, ultimately pitting good versus evil. This is a chilling novel which explores the higher and lower nature of man.

The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde

Dorian Gray, a young man of wealth and stature in late 1800's London, poses for a portrait. Once the painting is complete, Dorian realizes that the image will always be young and attractive, while he will be forced to age and wither with the years. Carelessly, he wishes the opposite were true. What happens is a treatise on morals, self-indulgence and how crucial personal responsibility is towards one's self.

Sons and Lovers, D.H. Lawrence

Repelled by her uneducated and sometimes violent husband, Gertrude Morel devotes her life to her children, especially to her sons, William and Paul, determined they will not follow their father into the coal mines. But conflict is evitable when Paul seeks to escape his mother's suffocating grasp through relationships with women his own age.

Accompanying Assignments for Honors English 12

For the one book you have chosen to read from your summer reading list complete a Dialectical Journal, also known as text connections (see below), and in addition, complete a creative project. This could very easily pertain to your area of concentration or a special talent you have. Examples of this could be a sculpture or painting which reflects what the work meant to you; an original piece of music or song which you would play or perform capturing the mood of the piece; an original dance to music which portrays the theme of the work or one character from the work, an oral interpretive reading of a selection from the work, artistically design a set if the work were going to be adapted as a play or a large movie poster if it were adapted to a screenplay; a CD which records music which takes the listener through the book. For you creative writers, you could write a collection of poems relating to the work or excerpts of a character's journal. These are just some ideas you can use as a springboard; be sure you are prepared to explain your project.

Dialectical Journaling (Text Connections)

A dialectical journal is a double entry reading journal. It requires at least one text, a sheet of lined notebook paper, and a writing implement.

On the left side of the lined page, write down a meaningful word, phrase, or a line or two from the text you are reading. Document the page where the quote is located within the text.

On the right hand side of the page, reflect, react, or respond to the words, phrases, or lines you've taken from the text. You may also write questions for yourself about the text or hypothetically pose questions to the author, speaker, or narrator of the text.

The purposes of the dialectical journal are for you to make personal connections to the text, practice deeper critical thinking skills, reflect on the relevance of the text, and learn how to craft good, open-ended, probing questions.

EXAMPLE:

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift, from 40 Model Essays

Dialectical Journal

Page	**Quotation**	**Reader Reaction**
Page 362	"I have no children by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine, and my wife past childbearing."	No wonder Swift proposes his outrageous solution to the social problem of poverty and hunger. He has nothing to lose. I wonder how I would react if I were a parent reading this!