

Student Name: _____ Book Title _____

English Teacher: _____ Author _____

MHS Pre-Course Reading Assessment English 11

I verify that _____ completed his/her summer reading.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Directions: Choose **one** of the following topics to compose an essay for your pre-course reading assessment. Each essay must be typed and at least five paragraphs long. This 400 minimum word essay must be submitted to your teacher on the first day of class.

Attach this sheet to your essay.

Topic One: Choose three scenes or chapters from the book that you find important to the theme of the novel and discuss their importance to the overall plot.

Topic Two: Choose three characters from the novel other than the main protagonist. Discuss how these characters relate to the main character, either as antagonists or other. How do these characters help the author realize and understand the theme of the work.

Topic Three: Often in literature, a character struggles against powerful forces or obstacles, and these struggles have a significant effect on the character. Select a character and explain how these struggles have a significant effect on the character.

Topic Four: In literature, as in life, people struggle with principles or beliefs they hold. Select a character who has to struggle and explain how that character's inner struggles are important to that book.

Topic Five: Heroism can mean different things to different people and literature is full of characters who may be considered heroic. Select a character who, in your opinion, is heroic. Identify the character and explain why he or she is heroic.

Topic Six: In literature as in life, characters often learn something about honesty. Select a character who has learned something about honest and explain why that learning is important to understanding the theme of that work.

Topic Seven: In literature, as in life, conflicts can be resolved in unexpected ways. Identify a conflict in the work you've read that ends unexpectedly. Describe the conflict and explain why this resolution was unexpected.

Topic Eight: The difference between what one expects will happen and what actually happens is often an important part of literature. Select a situation in which there is a difference between what is expected and what actually happens. Explain the situation and tell why it is important to the work you have chosen.

Topic Nine: In literature, as in life, people make choices and then must live with the consequences of those choices. Select a character that has made such a choice and explain what happens as a result of it. How does it change the character and the world in which he/she lives?

Topic Ten: Often in literature, characters have goals that motivate them. Select a character who has a goal that motivates him/her and show how the character's attempts at reaching that goal are important to the book.

A satisfactory essay meets the following criteria:

1. The essay has a minimum of five coherent paragraphs.
2. The essay is free from grammatical, structural and spelling errors.
3. The essay contains specific references to the text.
4. The essay has an introduction, main body and conclusion with a well-developed thesis statement and topic sentences.
5. The essay shows an understanding for the themes and conflicts included in the novel.

