

Independent Novel Study: *ELA 9*

This is your personal package for the Independent Novel Study unit. A copy can also be found on my website. Ensure to read through the entire package, and note the due dates.

1. Novel outline (needs Mr. DiDonato's signature for approval)
 - ✓ Title & Author
 - ✓ Chapters/pages
 - ✓ Author research
2. Assignment 1
 - ✓ Character sketch (main character; complete after the first 3 chapters)
3. Assignment 2
 - ✓ Journal entry (after half the book has been read)
4. Assignment 3
 - ✓ Write a personal letter to the main character of your novel or to a character you loathe...
5. **In class written assignment** (5 paragraphs) prompts: **APRIL 12/13**
 - ✓ Trace the development of the main character from the start of the novel to the end of the story – ensure to use examples from the beginning, middle and end of the novel.
 - ✓ Discuss the major theme of the novel; ensure you include 3 specific examples from the novel in your essay.
 - ✓ Discuss how the author's use of figurative language helps create an interesting story that is enjoyable to read (use a min. of 2 examples of figurative language).
 - ✓ Explain how the setting throughout the novel helps create vivid images of what you read, and how it adds to the plot development and the main characters traits.

You will be given time in class to read over the course of this unit (**March 5 – April 11**); however, if/when you miss class time, it is up to you to catch up on your reading and assignments

1. Outline

Student Name:	
Book Title:	
Book Author:	
# of Chapters:	
# of Pages:	

Background information of the Author:

Date of birth/death	
Place of birth	
2 other books written	
Interesting fact 1	
Interesting fact 2	

Teacher signature: _____

To be completed **before** you start this novel study; Mr. DiDonato's signature signifies **approval** for your novel

2. Character Sketch Assignment

In a well written paragraph, comment on the main character from the novel you are reading. Use specific details given by the author (include physical traits and personality qualities displayed by the character), quotes (both from the character and from other characters), and anecdotes from the book to ensure a well-organized and comprehensive paragraph.

Some key areas of focus:

- ✓ Physical appearance (including how they dress)
- ✓ Personality – does this character display more than one?
- ✓ Preferences – things the character likes and dislikes
- ✓ Tendencies – how does the character react in certain situations?
- ✓ Ethnicity
- ✓ Beliefs
- ✓ Values
- ✓ Actions

Don't forget the 5 types of characters we have discussed in class:

- ✓ Static
- ✓ Round
- ✓ Dynamic
- ✓ Flat
- ✓ Stereotype

Remember, the Protagonist (main character) usually displays qualities that befit a **'dynamic'** or **'round'** character...

DUE DATE: March 17



3. Journal Entry Assignment

As you would in a journal, please jot down some important information (some might be personal) about your chosen novel. Yes, start your entry with "Dear journal"...

Consider the following when writing your journal:

- ✓ Why did you select this novel?
- ✓ What information did you need to know before reading the novel?
- ✓ What's going on as the story begins? Who is telling the story?
- ✓ Are there any supporting characters introduced?
- ✓ Where is the setting of the novel? Is the setting important or could the novel be happening anywhere? Why?
- ✓ What is the initial or first conflict faced by the main character?
- ✓ How does the author get you to read on or hold your interest?

You can also add any additional information you may find useful as you look back on your journal entry 20 years from now 😊

DUE DATE: March 31



4. Personal Letter to the Main Character OR a character you loathe

Write a 2 page (hand written, single space) letter to either the main character in your novel OR to a character that really bothered you – someone you loathed as you read the book. In your letter ensure to capture things you liked about the character and things you thought could have been handled differently.

Areas of focus:

- ✓ How the character reacts to other characters, and to society
- ✓ The character's ability to make good decisions
- ✓ How the character atones for poor decisions
- ✓ Does the character display implicit/explicit signs of empathy? Proof...
- ✓ If you were this character what would you have done differently?
- ✓ Try to be partial to both good and bad things

Remember, this is a letter written by you to a fictional character, BUT if this person was real, he/she should be able to respond to your letter i.e. ensure you only discuss areas of concern you have that this character experienced throughout the novel

DUE DATE: April 7

