



OPTIONAL EXTRA-CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

- You can choose to do one or two of the 6 options on the next page.
- You must choose from the list of books below to complete the task.
- All extra-credit work must be submitted to your English teacher on the first day of class in September.
- Your work needs to be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED in size 12 Times New Roman font.
- Staple your work; do not put it in any sort of plastic cover.

BOOK LIST FOR EXTRA-CREDIT READING

Adams, Douglas	<i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>
Anderson, Laurie Halse	<i>Speak</i>
Baldwin, James	<i>Go Tell It On the Mountain</i>
Burdick and Hall	<i>Fail Safe</i>
Card, Orson Scott	<i>Ender's Game</i>
Cervantes, Miguel de	<i>Don Quixote</i>
Crane, Stephen	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
Crutcher, Chris	<i>Whale Talk, Staying Fat for Sara Byrnes</i>
Defoe, Daniel	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
Doctorow, E.L.	<i>World's Fair</i>
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>
Frank, Anne	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i>
Gaines, Ernest	<i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</i>
Kingsolver, Barbara	<i>Animal Dreams, The Bean Tress, Poisonwood Bible</i>
Kovic, Ron	<i>Born on the Fourth of July</i>
Lee, Gus	<i>China Boy</i>
London, Jack	<i>Call of the Wild, The Sea-Wolfe</i>
Mathabane, Mark	<i>Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa</i>
McCullers, Carson	<i>The Member of the Wedding</i>
Myers, Walter Dean	<i>Fallen Angels, Monster</i>
Paton, Alan	<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i>
Poe, Edgar Alan	<i>Selected Tales</i>
Potok, Chaim	<i>The Chosen</i>
Roberts, Kenneth	<i>The Northwest Passage</i>
Robinson, Henry	<i>The Cardinal</i>
Scott, Sir Walter	<i>Ivanhoe</i>
Smith, Betty	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>The Prince and the Pauper</i>



OPTIONAL EXTRA-CREDIT TASKS FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

-You can do one or two of the tasks below.

-Make sure you type the author and title of the book, the # of the assignment, and your name at the top of your paper.

1. Select a major character from one of the novels and do the following: Prepare a Character Sketch written in the FIRST-PERSON VOICE. Approximate length: 2 pages.

In this sketch, elaborate on the following items:

- a. All about me: In addition to a general description of the character, have the character discuss locations that are special in his/her life. You should also include any special activities, either or work or relaxation, that your character does.
- b. Significant Relationships: Explain and describe significant relationships which your character has with two or three other people in the novel.
- c. Problems in Life: Spend a paragraph discussing the problems and conflicts the character faces in life and how he/she copes with them (or fails to cope with them).
- d. My Future? Spend a paragraph speculating what the future holds for this character. Base your speculations upon evidence built from your reading of the novel. Where is this character likely to go next? What will happen to him/her?*

*Special option: If by chance your character was deceased by the end of the novel, use this paragraph to describe how he/she will be remembered by those surviving. What legacy did he/she leave behind for others to learn from or model after? How will those left continue without him?

2. What would the “movie version” of one of your summer reading books look like? Write a piece in which you script a section of your version. Choose the kind of movie you will film: for example, the “big Hollywood blockbuster” version, the “Disney” version, the “PBS/Ivory Merchant” version, the “made-for-TV” version. Choose actors, settings and so forth. Approximate length: 2-3 pages
3. Write a newspaper/magazine report of the events that occurred in one of your readings. You choose the newspaper/magazine in which your piece will appear and the time period in which you are writing. Obviously there are differences between a newspaper report on the events that happened in *The Scarlett Letter* today and those that would have been included in the report written in a newspaper at the time. Please identify the newspaper or magazine and the time in which you are writing. Approximate length: 2-3 pages

4. Write a letter to the author or one of your books or to a character in the book. If you are writing to the author, perhaps you could discuss what you admired about the work and/or how you think the story might have been different. If you are writing to the character, you might give the character advice about his/her situation, decisions, etc. You decide what you'd like to say. Approximate length: 1-2 pages
5. Consider the gender of the characters in your novel. How are male and female characters portrayed? How does the work portray their roles in society? How does gender influence the choices that are available to the characters and the decisions that they make? Write a paper that explores how gender affects the plot and character development in the novel. Approximate length: 2-3 pages

-Alternate Topics: Discuss how the novel would be different if the genders of the main characters were reversed, OR discuss how the novel would change if the events were to take place today. Compare the influence of gender on the choices and decisions that the characters make in the world of the novel to the influence that gender would have if these characters were here today.

6. In the novel that you've read, some of the characters are given positive, sympathetic portrayals. Others have negative, perhaps even villainous portrayals. Still others may begin with negative qualities and gradually become more and more positive. Rarely does an author rely on the reader's personal sense of morality to determine which characters are positive and which are negative. Instead, there are details, actions and characteristics that help define who is "good" and who is "bad." It's easy to know the difference in old Westerns—good guys wore white hats; bad guys wore black hats. But even then, there are other details that help you know what is going on, details that even help you construct hierarchies (e.g. slightly bad to full evil). Think about your novel. How does the author indicate which characters are positive and which are negative? In your essay, explain how you can tell the difference. Approximate length: 2-3 pages