

English II Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment

I. Experience Culture

Attend (or participate in) a live production of a play or musical this summer. Write a one to two page paper about your experience at the play. This is a narrative. Describe your visit/your likes and dislikes/your overall impression. Also pay attention to lighting, sound, background music, acting ability, and props. Although you can give a brief synopsis of the play, please avoid plot summaries. **Your essay must be typed, double space, using 12 point font.**

My favorites include the Pocket Sandwich Theater, the Dallas Summer Musical series, and Shakespeare in the Park; however, there are many other choices available; check the Friday Entertainment section of *The Dallas Morning News*.

If you attend Shakespeare in the Park, **pack a picnic dinner**, and ask your parents, grandparents, or friends to attend with you. Check out the website—some performances are by donation while others require a ticket. **You should also take a blanket or lawn chair, and DON'T FORGET THE BUGSPRAY!!!**

www.pocketsandwich.com (Caution: be sure to check the rating of the show you are seeing; some shows are "R" rated.)

www.shakespearedallas.org

www.dallassummermusicals.org (Always great and air-conditioned, but a little pricey)

www.cityofmesquite.com (Click in **City Departments** then **Arts Council** for a schedule.)

www.garlandsummermusicals.org

www.garlandcivictheatre.org

Note: Doing a skit for VBS will not sufficiently fulfill the requirements of this assignment. Also, I enjoy concerts and know you'll have fun if you attend one; however, they won't work for this assignment.

II. Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and create a reference journal

Literature and movies often depict the quest of a hero: a search for truth, treasure, love, or a myriad of other desires of the heart. After examining the myths and legends of many cultures across time and geographic locations, Mythologist Joseph Campbell recognized a pattern common to all; he called this pattern "The Hero's Journey". The "hero" is not necessarily heroic, but is the central character of the story. In his journey, the hero follows a series of steps falling within three stages: The Departure, The Initiation, and The Return.

After Reading the notes entitled, *The Hero's Journey: Summary of the Steps*, read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and look for examples of Huck's Hero Quest. **Mark these examples on your bookmark or in your book as you read.**

Create a dialectical journal depicting Huck's Hero Quest. This assignment should be typed.
Each entry should include the following elements:

Aspect: The step you have identified

Definition: You may copy from the handout or put it in your own words

Example: The event from the novel that matches the step

Quote: If there is a quote from the book that illustrates the step, include it here. There may not be a quote for every entry.

Example of dialectical Journal:

Departure

The Call to Adventure: The point in the hero's life when he is first given notice that everything is going to change.

Example: Huck's father kidnaps him and takes him to the shack on the river

Quote: "So he watched out for me one day in the spring and caught me, and took me up the river about three mile in a skiff, and crossed over to the Illinois shore where it was woody and there warn't no houses but an old log hut in a place where the timber was so thick you couldn't find it if you didn't know where it was" (23).

Your dialectical journal will end up looking similar to *The Hero's Journey* notes I gave you with examples and quotes from *Huck Finn* added on.

*Note: Not all steps will occur in all stories nor will they appear in exact order. In any given journey, readers can find from seven to twenty elements, but most successful adventures average approximately fourteen recognizable steps.

Your assignments will all be due the first day of class—**no exceptions**. If you are absent for some reason, your work is still due.

If you have any questions, feel free to E-mail me or call me at home. Have a wonderful summer! ☺

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