

**Papillion La Vista South High School**

**English Department**

**Summer Reading Program**

Purposes of Summer Reading

Reading effectively is a core skill needed by students no matter what their life plans include. Because of this truth, the English Department has developed the Summer Reading Program with these goals in mind:

* to rekindle the pleasure of reading at a more leisurely pace than is possible during the more hectic school year
* to give students a jump start on their regular curriculum
* to give students the opportunity to practice and develop valuable reading and note-taking skills

Focused Reading Guide

Course: Honors World Literature (12)

Teacher/s: Mrs. Christina Luehrs

Title/s: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexendre Dumas

The above title may be checked out from the school library. Students may choose to purchase the text if they prefer to write in their own texts.

Assignments

* Read the abridged version of the novel (ISBN: 0-812-56568-1 if you are purchasing it on your own)
* Create a Dialectical Journal (see below). **Due: first day of school.**
* Annotate the novel to keep track of plot, characters, literary devices, themes, etc.
* Compose an essay. **Due: second Friday of school year.**

Step 1: Read the following essay prompt.

One of the most compelling ideas that we will discuss this year is that many view life as a search for justice. Analyze the Count and debate the following theme: **Revenge does not fulfill the needs of the human soul; it is a negative force which brings about changes for the worse.** Your essay should be typed using correct MLA format, as well as Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. Do not summarize the plot; that is NOT what this assignment is about.

Step 2: Create a Dialectical Journal related to the above essay prompt.

While you read the CoMC, identify and copy at least 15 quotations related to the above prompt. Then analyze and explain the significance of each quotation. Consider how each quotation supports a part of the prompt. Your journal does not need to be typed, but it needs to be legible so that it can be easily assessed. Each response should be approximately one page in length, hand written, or one-half page typed. Use the format below as a guide to set up your journal.

Quotation (pg #) “………..” (Dumas \_\_\_).

\*\*Your quotations should be able to give context for the reader to remember what was happening in the book, and provide you with enough examples and information to write a meaningful response and analysis. Your quotes can be more than one sentence, but stray away from whole paragraphs\*\*\*

Analysis/Significance/Connection

\*\*\*Your analysis should demonstrate critical reading and thinking skills. You should connect to literary elements, conflict, characterization, theme, cultural information, etc.

Helpful Hints

* Be sure that you do not procrastinate with this reading assignment. The CoMC is an extended text, so it will take you a significant time to read. Remember that you have the right to stand by your conclusions, so you should plan to spend adequate time responding and annotating so that you have the support and reasoning to address specific issues throughout the novel.
* You may also want to make a character web to keep in your book. Since the Count changes personas (the book is episodic), this may help you keep important events straight in your head/notes. Students that have taken the time to do this in the past, and reported a higher level of understanding.
* You should also research the French Revolution and Napoleon Bonaparte. This will aide you in the understanding of many of the key concepts throughout the book. The story begins in medias res with Napoleon already exiled to the Isle of Elba. Then it continues for 24 more years. Understanding what was happening politically in France during that time will increase your comprehension and deepen your thoughts.
* Do not allow yourself to become overwhelmed or frustrated. Please email me this summer with your questions. I would be happy to look at your journal to let you know if you are on the right track.

Happy reading, and I look forward to discussing this amazing text with you in August!

Mrs. Luehrs

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