

English 11 Honors

24-25 Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: After you are finished reading the chosen text, answer the following questions either Google Docs or loose-leaf paper.

Don't worry if you are having problems with it. These are meant to be challenging; answering questions on a subject before you learn about it formally will help you deepen your understanding of the concepts we will be looking at.

You should provide evidence from the text to support your answers. Although direct quotations are preferred, references to specific plot elements, characters, etc. will be accepted.

For Common Sense

1. How does Thomas Paine employ the theme of natural rights and individual liberty throughout "Common Sense" to argue for American independence?
2. Discuss the role of analogy and metaphor in "Common Sense." How does Paine use these literary devices to make complex political ideas accessible to a wider audience?
3. Analyze Paine's use of historical and biblical references in "Common Sense." How do these references contribute to the persuasive power of his arguments?

The Adventures of Huck Finn

1. Discuss the use of satire and humor in "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." How does Twain employ these literary devices to critique the hypocrisy and absurdity of society, particularly regarding issues like racism and class?
2. Analyze the theme of friendship and companionship in "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," focusing on the relationship between Huck and Jim. How does their bond challenge social norms and expectations of the time?
3. Explore the motif of the river in "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." What symbolic significance does the Mississippi River hold, and how does it reflect the journey and growth of the characters?

The Jungle

1. Evaluate Sinclair's use of realism and muckraking journalism in "The Jungle." How does his depiction of the unsanitary conditions and exploitative labor practices in the meatpacking industry serve to expose social injustices and advocate for reform?
2. Discuss the use of symbolism in "The Jungle." What symbolic significance do elements like the meatpacking industry, the jungle itself, and the American flag hold within the narrative?
3. Analyze the theme of exploitation and the plight of the working class in "The Jungle." How does Sinclair depict the harsh realities faced by laborers in Chicago's meatpacking plants, and what broader social commentary does he offer on capitalism and industrialization?

Fahrenheit 451

1. Discuss the use of symbolism in "Fahrenheit 451." What symbolic significance do elements like fire, the mechanical hound, and the phoenix hold within the narrative?
2. Analyze the theme of conformity and the dangers of a passive society in "Fahrenheit 451." How does Bradbury depict a world where critical thinking and individuality are suppressed, and what warnings does he offer about the consequences of such conformity?
3. Explore the motif of technology and its impact on society in "Fahrenheit 451." How do devices like the parlor walls and seashell radios isolate individuals from meaningful human connections and contribute to the devaluation of literature and knowledge?