

## Literary Genres – Summer Reading

Your summer reading, to help prepare you for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English at Visitation, will include **TWO WORKS**: one a **play** and the other a **novel**. For the play, you are to complete an associated study guide and answer an essay question your first week of class. For the novel, you will choose from the list below and complete an essay according to my guidelines.

**First, the novel: choose one!** (they are listed in order from more challenging to less challenging)  
*Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier. A young woman (her name is never revealed to us) falls in love with Maxim DeWinter, a wealthy widower several years her senior. When the new Mrs. DeWinter arrives at Maxim's beautiful manor house, she learns that the first Mrs. DeWinter – the beautiful and charming Rebecca – died very mysteriously. I am a secret fan of Gothic romances, and this one is spell-bindingly fantastic (also a great prep for our reading of *Jane Eyre* during second semester)!

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. Junior is a ninth-grader who lives on the Spokane Indian Reservation with his family. Early on in the book, Junior transfers from his reservation school to an all-White school 20 miles away -- a move that alienates him from both his best friend and the other Spokane Indians, who resent Junior for leaving. This book is both brilliantly funny and very sad, and it offers a very honest commentary on Indian life in this country. I really love Sherman Alexie as an author, and this is just one of my favorite reads. *Contains some mature language.*

*North of Beautiful* by Justina Chen. Chen's novel tells the story of Terra Cooper, a teenage girl, struggling with her dysfunctional family, her search for real friends, and the true meaning of beauty. The sustained metaphor of searching for "true north," the cartographical/geographical references further enhance Terra's deepening awareness of her self and how one navigates the various tensions and issues that arise in one's life. This is a gentle, lovely little book.

Now, choose a character from the book you read and write your essay on the topic below:

*An epiphany can be described as a sudden moment of insight or understanding that causes a character to change or act in a certain way. In the novel that you read, the main character(s) experience at least one epiphany during the course of the plot.*

Your book review will consist of a one-paragraph essay, in which you discuss the epiphany the main or supporting character experiences. Be sure to include an introductory sentence or two as well as a concluding sentence. In the body of your paragraph, you should answer the following questions:

What was the character's epiphany or realization? Be specific.

What event, occurrence, or moment in the story triggered the character's epiphany? Be specific.

In what ways did the character change as a result of this epiphany? In other words, what was he/she like before the epiphany, and what is he/she like afterwards? Be specific.

## Checklist:

- Your essay should be approximately 1½ pages in length.
- Please be sure that your full name and date are in the upper left-hand corner of the paper.
- This paper should be typed, double-spaced in Times New Roman (or similar) 12 pt. font.
- Be sure to write a strong topic sentence. You should include the title of the work, the author, and your main idea in the topic sentence. Remember: the topic sentence needs to mention both the title of the book and should summarize your whole paper.
- **Your topic sentence may NOT be “For summer reading, I read...”**
- Use concrete, accurate evidence – and at least two quotes – to support your ideas.
- Please do NOT summarize the plots of this book. Your job is to answer the questions – not tell me about the plot.
- Pick a book that you haven’t already read and that you enjoy reading. If you choose a book and don’t like it, then choose something else. Summer reading should be fun!
- I am not looking for your opinions regarding the books. In other words, don’t tell me how much you liked/disliked the books or the characters or the plots, etc. Your goal is to answer the given questions clearly and in depth.
- Read your writing aloud to catch awkward sentences and phrases. Fragments, run-on sentences, and spelling errors will not be accepted.

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## **Next, the play!**

*Inherit the Wind* by Robert E. Lee and Jerome Lawrence. Written in 1955, Lee and Lawrence’s work tackled the controversial courtroom drama that occurred in 1925 when a substitute science teacher, recruited by the ACLU, taught Darwin’s Theory of Evolution in place of Creationism (thus breaking a Tennessee law). The point of the drama is not to disprove the Bible but to speak against blatant “McCarthyism” and to uphold intellectual freedoms.

Complete the associated study guide to help you prepare for your essay question and to assist you in your understanding of the drama.

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### **Due Dates:**

**Please note that the summer reading assignment must be completed before the first day of school in August. Your essays and study guides must be submitted on the first day of school (not during 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Week).**

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**Study Guide for *Inherit the Wind***

**Act I Scene 1**

1. What do the minor characters in this scene inform the audience about?
  2. What do we learn about Rachel in this scene?
  3. What does Hornbeck mean when he says the following lines? “The unplumbed and plumbing-less depths! Ahhh, Hillsboro – Heavenly Hillsboro. The buckle on the Bible Belt.”
  4. What is the meaning of the exchange between Hornbeck, the monkey, the organ grinder and Melinda on pages 14-15?
  5. What kind of picture of Brady is presented in scene 1? Give 3-5 examples.
  6. What is the role of Sarah Brady in scene 1?
  7. What do you suppose was discussed by MHB and Rachel when he leads her away from the others?
  8. Why is Brady pleased that Drummond is his opponent? What does this response show us about Brady?
  9. What does Hornbeck mean when he says he is “both Poles and the Equator, with no temperate zones between”?
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**Act I Scene 2**

1. Why does Drummond accept Bannister as a juror?
2. How do the playwrights achieve humor in this scene?
3. What is the colonel (pronounced “ker-nel”) issue? How is it resolved?
4. What is Brady’s accusation to Drummond about the Endicott case?
5. Explain the following line: “You murder a wife, it isn’t nearly as bad as murdering an old wives’ tale.”
6. According to Drummond, what do you lose when you lose your power to laugh?
7. What does Drummond care about? What does Rachel care about?

8. Give an example of “finding yourself standing up when everyone else is sitting down.” (Your example doesn’t have to be from the play.)
  9. On what condition will Drummond quit? What is Bert’s decision?
  10. What is Rachel’s position? Why?
  11. Define “pariah.” Give two examples of pariahs from the play.
  12. What does it take a very smart person to say? Explain what Drummond means.
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### **Act II Scene 1**

1. How does Reverend Brown get the crowd riled up at the prayer meeting?
  2. What is your opinion of Reverend Brown in this scene? Support with details.
  3. What is Brady’s reaction to these curses?
  4. What do we learn about Brady in this scene? Support with evidence.
  5. Interpret Proverbs 11:29: “He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind.” What do you think it means? (Make a guess if you don’t know.)
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### **Act II Scene 2**

1. What pun does Brady make while questioning Howard? Why does he do this?
2. What important point is Drummond trying to make in his cross-examination of Howard?
3. What does Drummond mean in his speech about right and wrong and truth?
4. Why did Cates quit going to church?
5. Why does Drummond want to question men like Dr. Keller and Walter Aaronson?
6. Why does Brady object?
7. What surprise witness does Drummond call to testify? What is this man’s expertise?
8. How does Brady want to explain away natural law?
9. What does Drummond mean when he says, “An idea is a greater monument than a cathedral”?

10. What price do we pay for knowledge or progress? Can you think of a contemporary example?
  11. How old is the earth according to Bishop Usher?
  12. How does Drummond “trip up” Brady?
  13. How does Brady know he is right?
  14. Which man, Brady or Drummond, do the spectators favor by this time in the trial? How do you account for this?
  15. How would you describe Brady at the end of the scene?
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### **Act III**

1. What is the reason for including the Golden Dancer episode? What could Golden Dancer be a metaphor for?
2. What new medium makes the trial public?
3. What is the jury’s decision?
4. What is a pyrrhic victory? Who has a pyrrhic victory in this play? Explain with evidence.
5. What is Cates’ punishment?
6. What is the difference between fine and bond? Look it up if you don’t know.
7. What has Brady lost? Why?
8. What is Rachel’s metaphor for an idea? What does she mean?
9. Why is Drummond upset with Hornbeck?
10. To whom does the quote “Inherit the wind...” now apply? Support with evidence.
11. What does Drummond carry out as he leaves? What might he be trying to communicate by doing this action?
12. What is your opinion of Rachel at the end of the play? What might she represent?

Compiled by Elizabeth Arnstein; some study guide questions taken from Center for Learning Materials