

Senior Honors British Literature - Summer Reading 2022

Hello and welcome to your senior British Literature course! I'm so excited to start this journey with you. So here we are, our very first assignment! I know summer reading can feel like a chore but I've picked two books I find truly captivating and tried to pair them with both analytical and creative assignments to give you a feel for the kind of work we'll be doing in class when we return in the fall. The summer reading assignment will count as two quiz grades. In addition to this, we will have class activities, assignments, discussions, and an exam on the books during the first week of school so please be prepared!

Guidelines and Suggestions:

- Give yourself ample time to complete the readings and assignments. Do not wait until the last minute to try to complete this assignment.
- Try mapping out your plan of action in a planner, calendar, or any source you can easily refer back to!
- Decide when and how you will read- on the subway as you go to meet your friends? At the beach when you're relaxing? On a flight? With your morning cup of coffee? For a certain amount of time each night before bed? At the park on a beautiful day? The possibilities are endless!
- On the calendar count up the days when you know you will have anywhere between 20-40 minutes to read.
- Calculate how many pages (or chapters) you will need to read per day. Typically, I aim to read 50 pages a day.
- If you find it difficult to focus (like I do sometimes), try listening to an audiobook version as you read along- this will make it harder for your mind to wander off! You can try sources like: <https://www.audible.com/>, [LibriVox | free public domain audiobooks](#), YouTube, or even your closest public library!
- Don't forget to include days when you will dedicate time to writing your assignment. You may complete the assignment as you are reading the book or after you have finished it in its entirety.

Summer Reading Texts:

- *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

Writing Assignment: This assignment can be handwritten or you can use Canva to keep a digital notebook. Please do not pay for any features, just use the free templates if you are choosing this option. If you are choosing to handwrite your work (go you!! Hand writing your work well is a skill that needs to be practiced!) keep **one small, organized journal**- *no five subject notebooks necessary*, where you will hand write and record your responses. Be sure to clearly label each response. You should create a section of your journal for each prompt and clearly label which sections refer to *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and which sections refer to *Rebecca*. Feel free to decorate your small journal or keep it simple, if you consider yourself more of a minimalist! In my journals I love to press flowers between pages, use cute stickers or journaling materials, or create illustrations. Bonus points if they relate to the novel in any way! If using Canva to keep a digital notebook, feel free to add images, decals, and other decorative elements that are included.

I. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

- **Author Biography:** Time to do a little research- Gather background information on Oscar Wilde. Identify the author's purpose with regards to writing the novel. Please do not use Wikipedia or Biography.com as

a source. Acceptable websites would be <http://www.wilde-online.info/oscar-wilde-biography.htm> and <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poemsand-poets/poets/detail/oscar-wilde>

- **Characterization** - In each section you will write a thorough description of each character and their importance/role within the novel. Describe their appearance (if given), their actions, and their thoughts. List the conflicts and challenges each character has faced. Characters you must discuss: **Lord Henry Wotton, Basil Hallward, Sybil Vane, James Vane, Dorian Gray, Alan Campbell**

- **Significant Passage:** Choose ONE (1) passage from the book that struck you as memorable or outstanding (esp. if it is quotable). Explain why the passage is significant to the work, relating it to a major theme, character's development, or a significant plot element (rising action, climax, etc.). Also explain WHY you consider the passage to be significant and its impact on YOU personally. Be sure to provide the page number the passage appears on, and quote the passage (or the first few lines, feel free to type the passage and paste it in your journal)

- **Themes:** In your reading and research of the work, you should also discover the major themes of the book. After identifying at least TWO (2) themes, briefly explain how each is developed throughout the course of the work. Give specific support (at least three quotes) from the work. Remember, theme should be a **PHRASE** that could serve as part of a thesis statement. For example: "Unrequited Love" is a MOTIF not a theme, whereas "*How unrequited love leads to depression and lack of self-esteem.*" would be a theme.

- **Time Period and Setting:**
 - The novel takes place during the late Victorian era. Why is that important to the novel? What are some of the major historical events going on during that time? Look up Aestheticism and Gothic Horror/Fiction –what are these movements and why are they important to the novel? Do they have specific instances of influence in the novel?
 - Write a full account of the setting. Time, place, images and places of interest were used as the background for the story.?

- **Questions:** Write five questions for each novel. The questions could be for the author or for a specific character. Explain your reasoning for each question.

- **Personal Reaction/Review:** Write a three to five paragraph personal reaction to each story/essay. What have you learned from the character's experiences? Would you recommend this book to a friend? What surprised you about the novel? What did you enjoy? What did you dislike? Too many questions? Sorry. Be sure to explain your reasoning and be specific.

- **Playlist:** Now to have some fun! A bit about me, I love relating music to literature. One of my favorite hobbies when reading a novel I truly love (which I hope you'll love these two selections as much as I do) I make playlists with songs I feel express related themes, conflicts, character motivations, etc. Your assignment is to choose **3 songs** you enjoy that you feel relate to the novel in some way. Be sure to list the title of the song, the artist, and at least **two quotes** from the lyrics and *explain in a well-written paragraph why you made this selection/how it relates to the novel.*

II. *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier

- **Characterization** - In each section you will write a thorough description of each character and their importance/role within the novel. Describe their appearance (if given), their actions, and their thoughts. List the conflicts and challenges each character has faced. Characters you must discuss: **the narrator, Mrs. Danvers, Maxim de Winter, Rebecca, Giles, Jack Favell, Ben**

- **Themes:** In your reading and research of the work, you should also discover the major themes of the book. After identifying at least TWO (2) themes, briefly explain how each is developed throughout the course of the work. Give specific support (at least three quotes) from the work. Remember, theme should be a **PHRASE** that could serve as part of a thesis statement. For example: “Unrequited Love” is a MOTIF not a theme, whereas “*How unrequited love leads to depression and lack of self-esteem.*” would be a theme.

- **Setting** - Write a detailed description of the setting within the novel. Include at least two quotes. How does the setting enhance the mood of the novel? How does the setting allow for/enhance conflict? What is the importance/role of the setting in the novel?

- **Significant Passage:** Choose ONE (1) passage from the book that struck you as memorable or outstanding (esp. if it is quotable). Explain why the passage is significant to the work, relating it to a major theme, character’s development, or a significant plot element (rising action, climax, etc.). Also explain WHY you consider the passage to be significant and its impact on YOU personally. Be sure to provide the page number the passage appears on, and quote the passage (or the first few lines, feel free to type the passage and paste it in your journal)

- **Short Essay Response:** In a five paragraph entry, explain whether you view the novel as a ghost story or not. Be sure to include thorough analysis of elements of the novel, textual evidence, and clear reasoning to support your claim.

- **Playlist:** Now to have some fun! A bit about me, I love relating music to literature. One of my favorite hobbies when reading a novel I truly love (which I hope you’ll love these two selections as much as I do) I make playlists with songs I feel express related themes, conflicts, character motivations, etc. Your assignment is to choose **3 songs** you enjoy that you feel relate to the novel in some way. Be sure to list the title of the song, the artist, and at least two quotes from the lyrics and ***explain in a short paragraph why you made this selection/how it relates to the novel.***

If you have any questions regarding the assignment, you can email me over the summer at collins.i@stsviour.org . Relax, rest, and read! Have a lovely summer. Looking forward to having you all in my class!

Sincerely,
Ms. Collins