

# Quotes Project for Summer Reading for Pre-AP English II

(Created by Anne Arvidson and presented at Atlanta NCTE Convention)

## Assignment

Your summer reading assignment has three parts.

- Choose **one** novel from the accompanying reading list.
- First, while reading (not after reading) your novel this summer, you will collect a minimum of at least six (6) annotated passages/quotes from the novel and explain why you chose them.
- Then you will find "The Quote of the Novel" and explain why you chose it.
- Then you will write a reflective letter about the novel that you read and your reactions to both it and the annotated passages that you assembled.

## Procedure

### ➤ **Part 1 – Six Quotes**

Use post-its or annotating (if you own the book) to note/mark passages as you read (not after you have read the entire novel). Every time you encounter a particularly important, provocative, dramatic, surprising, or even disturbing passage, mark it with a post-it note. **Make a note on why it seems so important.** Then when you have completed the novel, you will look at all those passages and decide which to toss out and which to keep. Keep the ones that seem like they are crucial to the theme or main idea of the novel. You need to keep at least **six (6) passages** from throughout the novel.

Your quotes should come from all the different parts of the novel (the beginning, middle, and end). Copy the passages down exactly as they appear in the book (**with quotation marks and proper citation of page number**), and then write about each passage in the following ways:

Paragraph 1. First, in a well-written paragraph explain how the passage "fits" into the novel and its purpose in the novel. For example, does the passage help you better understand a character? Does it further the plot line? Does it provide details about the setting, and so forth? Is it part of the central conflict? **Discuss the importance of the passage to the book's message or meaning or theme.**

Paragraph 2. Then, in a well-written paragraph, react **to the passage as a reader**. Make me understand **WHY** you have selected this passage to include in this part of the assignment. To generate responses, you can consider the following as suggested prompts or questions:

- ✓ Why does the passage impress, intrigue, horrify, or puzzle you?
- ✓ Do you find the author's use of language appealing or powerful? Does the passage jump off the page as a great descriptive passage?
- ✓ Does it prompt a strong response from you as you read it? Does it present itself as so well crafted that you just love the sound of it? Is the language beautiful? Descriptive? Graphic?
- ✓ Is the passage particularly meaningful? Is it a high point in the book?
- ✓ Do you find yourself in agreement/disagreement with the ideas expressed?
- ✓ Does the passage remind you of a situation you have lived as well?
- ✓ Does the passage make you laugh out loud? Or does it make you melancholy? Or does it make you something a different emotion?

- ✓ Does the author or the character raise intriguing questions or issues?
- ✓ Does the passage challenge or expand your thinking?

You are not limited to the above list, nor do I expect you to answer all of the above. But your responses to the passages should clearly explain to me **WHY** these passages mean something to you, and **WHY** these passages caught your attention.

### ➤ **Part 2 – Quote of the Book**

After you have discussed the six quotes you chose for this first part of this assignment, then select **ANOTHER, DIFFERENT** passage as "The Quote of the Book." This is the one passage or quote that captures the essence – the true meaning – of the novel for you, the reader. In a well-written paragraph explain exactly **HOW** this passage is the one perfect quote from the book. Explain how it's perfect, why you chose it, and its importance to the book's meaning, message, or theme.

### ➤ **Part 3 – Reflective Letter**

Lastly, you need to write a **REFLECTIVE LETTER** (of about one page, typed and double spaced) about reading this novel and creating your quotes paper. In your letter you should write about the thoughts and feelings and observations and new insights you experienced while reading your novel. Write to me about marking the quotes as you read and then selecting the ones to keep. Some things to think about for your letter may include, but are not exclusive to:

- ✓ Tell me what you worked on the hardest or struggled with in doing this assignment
- ✓ Share with me what you think you did well: what worked, really worked
- ✓ Show me where you were drawn into the novel and where you were pulled away from the novel. Identify in your opinion the author's – or the story's – greatest strength and weakness
- ✓ Discuss in what ways the novel is similar to your life
- ✓ Explore what value, besides entertainment, this book has
- ✓ Share your overall impressions of the novel
- ✓ Discuss if you found yourself changing your mind about the book and/or the assignment
- ✓ Tell me what you as a reader and as a student need to focus on for the next assignment

Your **REFLECTIVE LETTER** is your chance to "talk" with me about your book, your project, and your experiences in completing this assignment. With your letter, make me see your work – and your learning – through your eyes. Please do use the first person for this letter.

## **Important Stuff/Requirements**

- ✓ **All the parts of this assignment must be typed. You should use the Times New Roman font, size 12 and double space between the lines of the text. Your margins should be set at 1-inch. This is standard MLA formatting and should be adhered to when typing all your school work.**
- ✓ Passages or quotes chosen for part one and two of this assignment must be at least two sentences long.
- ✓ Passages or quotes chosen for part one and two must be from throughout the entire novel. Gather a few from the beginning, some from the middle, and some from the end of the novel.
- ✓ **All passages must be in quotation marks so I know those are the parts that are taken directly from the novel. Be sure to copy the passage exactly as it appears in your novel.**
- ✓ **All passages must include the page number from which they are taken. Cite page numbers as (235), or (16), or (105). Put the period after the citation.**
- ✓ Your explanation/responses to the passages/quotes from part one should be two paragraphs long and follow the guidelines listed above. Your response to part two should be at least one paragraph long. Academically sound paragraphs start with topic sentences and are at least seven sentences long.
- ✓ This assignment will be due on the first day of school with no exceptions. **If you decide not to do the summer reading, please plan to ask for a schedule change to another English II class.** We'll be using our summer reading as the basis for the first few weeks of work. You must have it complete when school begins.
- ✓ Do not turn in your jump drive or a CD with this assignment burned to it. You should print this assignment and bring it to school on the first day of school. If you do not have access to a printer, you can print five pages a day for free at any branch of the Tulsa City County Library. You must have a library card to use this service, but getting a library card is easy and free.
- ✓ The Reflective letter is a required component of this assignment. It should be at least one typed page long.

### **Contact Information**

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions. Yes, I answer email in the summer!

Email: [agarrison@skiatoolschools.org](mailto:agarrison@skiatoolschools.org)

Website: [garrison.skiatoolschools.org](http://garrison.skiatoolschools.org)

-----  
You and your parent or guardian are required to sign the bottom part of this assignment sheet and return it to me. Please fill out the below information and return it to me on or before Friday, May 8, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian email address