

Honors English 10: American Literature
Mr. Fitzgerald
Summer Reading Assignment

Included here are assignments for 3 books: *Pudd'n'head Wilson*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

- All parts of this assignment should be typed (12-point font, Times New Roman)
- Be sure to have a heading that indicates which book your answers are referring to.
- Be sure to number your answers to make it clear which question you are answering.
- All assignments must be submitted in print form and in digital form.
- Print copies should be stapled prior to submission. All three assignments (for each of the three books) should be stapled together to be submitted as a whole. Do **NOT** submit the assignments separately.
- Digital copies should be submitted as a singled document. Do **NOT** submit the assignments as separate files.
- Digital copies should be submitted via email to rfitzgerald@saintvincentferrer.com
- Digital copies should be submitted as **ATTACHMENTS** in the format of either Word Documents or PDF files. **DO NOT** share digital copies as Google Docs. Google Docs will not be accepted.
- Google Docs can easily be converted into Word Documents or PDF files by clicking on "File" clicking on "Download as" and selecting either "Microsoft Word (.docx)" or "PDF Document (.pdf)"
- DO NOT** attach Pages files. Pages files will **NOT** be accepted.
- Digital Copies should be sent from your school email address or a personal email address that has your full name associated with it. Do not send emails from a personal email address that does not use your full name.

Pudd'n'head Wilson
by Mark Twain

Respond to **ONE** of the following prompts in an essay between 600 and 800 words.

1. A major theme of the book is the arbitrariness of racial classifications. In a 600-800-word essay, discuss this theme and how it relates to at least ONE definition of culture (as seen on the following page). Be sure to cite evidence.
2. A question posed by the novel is whether "nature" or "nurture" is the controlling factor in what type of person an individual will become. Does Twain conclusively favor one theory or the other? In a 600-800-word essay, make an argument and support it with textual evidence.
3. Does Twain's tone in this novel seem racist or anti-racist? In a 600-800-word essay, make an argument and support it with textual evidence.

What is Culture?

A number of anthropologists define culture in different ways. Read each definition.

Edward B. Tylor: Culture is “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”

James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy: Culture is “the acquired knowledge that people use to interpret experience and to generate social behavior”

Ward Goodenough: “A society’s culture consists of whatever it is one has to know or believe in order to operate in a manner acceptable to its members and do so in any role that they accept for any one of themselves. Culture, being what people have to learn as distinct from their biological heritage, must consist of the end by-product of learning: knowledge...”

Robert Levine: Culture is “a shared organization of ideas that includes the intellectual, moral, and aesthetic standards prevalent in a community and the meanings of communicative actions”

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Answer each of the following questions separately in paragraph form. Each paragraph should be 8-10 sentences in length.

1. Soledad, California is the setting of this story, and the background seems to be as much a character as the humans who take part in the action. Why do you think that Steinbeck chose this setting for the story? How does the setting help or hurt the characters?
2. When George kills Lennie, it's a shock to some readers. After all of George's devotion and loyalty, this seems like a final act of betrayal. Why do you think George killed Lennie? Do you think this killing was the right thing to do? Why did George lie about what happened with Lennie? What do you think happens to George after the book ends?
3. Why does George feel responsible for Lennie? How do George’s individual desires conflict with the sense of responsibility that he feels for Lennie?
4. How are Lennie, Crooks, and Candy similar?
5. Why do you think Curley’s wife is an unnamed character?

6. How is the theme of loneliness shown throughout the story? Give specific examples.
 7. How is the theme of violence shown throughout the story? Give specific examples.
 8. How is the theme of discrimination (any type) shown throughout the story? Give specific examples.
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How to Win Friends and Influence People
by Dale Carnegie

1. Summarize each section (there are four sections). Your summaries should be 10-15 sentences in length.
2. There is a principle written at the end of each chapter. You may want to read each chapter twice so you can read the anecdotes once just to take in the information and then again after you understand the principle the chapter is illustrating.
3. In Section I, choose 1 principle that you think is the most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. In Section II, choose 2 principles that you think are the most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. In Section III, choose 4 principles that you think are most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. In Section IV, choose 3 principles that you think are most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. Each of your explanations should be 10-15 sentences in length.