

AP Literature & Composition Summer Reading 2020

Materials:

The Road - Cormac McCarthy

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=YnJpZGd0b25hY2FkZW15Lm9yZ3xtci1kdWJlc3xeDo0NTI5ZjRmNDQ3ZmJmMjg5>

The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood

https://file.largepdf.com/file/2019/08/28/The%20Handmaid_s%20Tale.pdf

The Art of Fiction – David Lodge

<https://docplayer.net/21179124-The-articles-with-which-david-lodge-entertained.html>

“In the planning stage of a book, don't plan the ending. It has to be earned by all that will go before it.”
— **Rose Tremain**

“All the rest of the nonsense a story requires is just a long seduction of the ending.” - **Catherynne M. Valente**

Directions:

Read both *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Road*, paying particular attention to each novel's ending. Read David Lodge's book *The Art of Fiction*, however read the last section “50 Ending” first.

Many novelists find the ending of their work to be the most difficult to write because it involves so many other aspects of the novel. Lodge specifically delineates at least seven (7) different aspects of one of his own novels that affected the ending (Point of View, Suspense, Surprise, Intertextuality, Staying on the Surface, Title and Chapters, & Metafiction; all chapters in his book), noting that there are many more. Read through Lodge's book and highlight at least six (6) aspects (chapter topics) that have affected how each novel's (*The Road* & *The Handmaid's Tale*) ending has been developed. In other words, if you work backwards in each novel, how does the ending of each novel reflect the author's choices throughout the novel.

Lodge's book is made up of 50 sections; each chapter dealing with a specific aspect of the novel; literally, *The Art of Fiction*. These chapters / sections will serve as a guide for which aspects you can use to base your analysis of each novel's ending.

Not all of the 50 chapters in Lodge's book are applicable to both novels; however, it would behoove you to read the whole book as many of these ideas will be reviewed and discussed throughout the year.

You will need to have the books read by September and notes to work with; we will be writing an essay based on what you have taken away from both novels and the David Lodge book. Your deep and careful analysis of each novel should determine the amount of notes you glean from the texts.

Your notes must be typed and submitted to Turnitin.com when we begin school in September.

The Road – I would consider the final two paragraphs as the place to begin with the ending. You could use more, but I feel that those last two are really the key...

The Handmaid's Tale – The end is *Historical Notes*.