

Mr. Burfoot- Summer Reading English 11 Dual Enrollment

Dear English 11 Dual Enrollment Student:

Welcome to the eleventh grade and your comprehensive study of American literature, college composition, and SAT and SOL preparation. To begin your journey through the classics of American literature, you are to participate in summer reading. Your assignment this summer is to read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

You do not have to read “The Custom House.” For *The Scarlet Letter*, you are to analyze theme.

1. **Bookmark/flag the text with small post-it notes as you read.** Watching for theme as you read is a way of staying alert and thinking about what is being read. Students should not bookmark too much; being selective is a thinking process that helps “teach” the novel. A heavily marked book is difficult to review because it is messy and confusing to the eye. You may add written notations to your sticky notes such as *symbolism of the scaffold*. After you finish reading the book, review what you have marked and discard any sticky notes that no longer seem important. Do not write in the school’s novel.
2. **Keep a HANDWRITTEN journal.** No typed journal will be accepted unless Mr. Burfoot is contacted by June 16, 2019, via email about a legally documented disability that prevents you from being able to handwrite your work.
 - Use blue or black ink to write your journal. Only legible work will be graded.
 - You must keep your journal very neat and professional looking.
 - You may use text that you have bookmarked.
 - You should have at least fifty textual examples that correlate to at least 5 different thematic ideas.
 - Your textual selections should range from chapter one to chapter twenty-four. You should not have a high concentration of selections from one chapter or part of the novel.
 - You may not use my example illustrating the required format.

The format of the journal is called a dialectical/double-entry journal:

A useful style is a dialectical/double-entry journal as it requires you to not only make note of significant quotations, literary devices (like symbols, allusions, and stylistic choices), but *also* to provide your commentary on what you encounter (not just WHAT you see or think is important, but HOW or WHY it is important). If you have never done a dialectical journal before, simply draw a line down the middle of your page. On the left-hand side, record any important quotations you read, any questions you have, any observations you make about literary devices (symbols, metaphors, characterization, major concepts), or other things you find interesting in

the text. Be sure to record a page number. On the right side of the page, across from the quotation or observation, write your commentary. This is where you tell WHY you think the quote or observation is important or HOW it connects to something else you have read. If you still aren't certain of what to do, don't panic; either use an alternative organizational technique or give it your best shot and email Mr. Burfoot with your questions. There is not a formal length requirement on your journal, but you will need to keep notes for the entire text. If you type your journal, you need to provide an electronic copy AND a hard copy. Most students choose to keep the journal in a spiral notebook; it doesn't need to be bigger than a single-subject.

NOTE: Remember that if you include any "insights" in your journal that are anything less than original (i.e. – you saw something cool online and included it in your journal), you MUST CITE the sources consulted. If you don't, that will be considered plagiarism, and you will receive a zero on the assignment – not a great way to start the year. Getting a little help isn't wrong if you acknowledge the assistance; however, know that YOUR ideas are what matter!

Here is an example:

Number	Thematic Idea	Textual evidence	page
1	The natural world vs. structured Puritan society	<i>It may serve, let us hope, to symbolize some sweet moral blossom, that may be found along the track, or relieve the darkening close of a tale of human frailty and sorrow.</i> (write out the complete quote)	34

Thematic Ideas

The natural world versus structured Puritan society	Dimmesdale's sins
The individual versus societal expectations	Truth vs. secrets
Scientific thinking versus spirituality	The significance of color
Three forces in conflict: science, nature, and religion	Violating the sanctity of the human heart
Significance of the scaffold	Flowers vs. weeds
Pearl as a symbol of more than the unruly child	Each character as a representation of a philosophy of life
Hester's sins	Setting reflects character
Chillingworth's sins	Sunshine versus darkness
The worth of women in society	Being true to oneself
	The letter A as a dynamic character
	Hester as an artist

- Your work is to be your own. You are not to share answers or quotes. You are not to examine former students' notes and papers. Doing so is a violation of the PGHS Honor Code. Using any part of a study aide like Sparknotes, Grade Saver, Cliffnotes, Novel Guide, etc. in your journal is plagiarism and will be treated as an honor code violation. Please remember paraphrasing any

other source is plagiarism. Any direct wording must be in quotation marks and have a source citation.

- This work is due on the first day of class! It is your first grade.
- You may try to contact me with questions via email. I do not check it every day during the summer, but I will respond whenever I see the message. My email is rburfoot@pgs.k12.va.us.
- If you lose this sheet, send me an email and I will forward you a copy.

When planning for next school year, please the following recommended supplies for this class:

- A three-ring binder
- A flash drive for saving your work
- #2 pencils
- Black and/or blue pens
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- If possible, regular access to the internet as I will likely set up a communication tool such as E-Chalk or Edmodo.

I am looking forward to a wonderful, productive school year in which you will come to appreciate and enjoy American literature.

-Mr. Burfoot