

Name: _____ Block: _____

English 1 Summer Reading List
***The House of the Scorpions* Nancy Farmer**

***Clarity* Kim Harrington**

***The Hobbit* J.R.R. Tolkien**

***13 Reasons Why* Jay Asher**

***Boy 21* Matthew Quick**

***Delirium* Lauren Oliver**

***Bomb* Steve Sheinken**

***Ashfall* Mike Mullin**

***Paper Towns* John Green**

All freshmen will be required to write an in class essay based on one of the books the first or second day of school.

Use this piece of paper for your prewriting.

English I Summer Reading Assessment

Directions: Choose ONE of the prompt choices on the back and develop a well-constructed essay response based on the content of your selected summer reading novel. Here are some tips to help you be successful:

- ✓ Reader should clearly be able to determine the title of your book and the *specific* prompt you have chosen.
- ✓ You may reference your book and/or any handwritten notes you have created to assist you in developing your response.
- ✓ Your response should demonstrate an understanding of the text.
- ✓ Essay should adhere to proper paragraph structure.

Your essay will be graded based on the following criteria:

	5 (A)	4 (B)	3 (C)	2 (D)	1 (F)
Content x3	Response is focused on the prompt and does not stray from the topic at hand. Response includes specific details from the text and may include a direct quote.	Response is focused on the prompt. Response includes details from the text.	Response is mostly focused on the prompt but may occasionally stray off topic. Response includes vague details from the text.	Response strays from the selected prompt and contains few details from the text. Response does not demonstrate an understanding of the text.	Response is not focused on a selected prompt and lacks sufficient detail from the text.
Length x1	Response is a minimum of 2 handwritten pages. (Approx. 400 words)	Response is a minimum of 1.5 - 2 handwritten pages. (Approx. 300- 399 words)	Response is one handwritten page in length. (Approx. 200 words)	Response is less than one handwritten page in length. (less than 200 words)	Response is incomplete.
Structure x1	Response is constructed in proper essay format which includes more than three distinct paragraphs.	Response is constructed in proper essay format which includes at least three distinct paragraphs.	Response is constructed in proper essay format which includes at least two distinct paragraphs.	Response does not include multiple paragraphs.	Response does not include multiple paragraphs.

GRADE = _____%

= _____/25 points

PROMPT CHOICES

Symbolism

A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Select a novel and, focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Character Foils

In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas or behavior of the minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Choose a novel in which a minor character serves as a foil to a main character. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the relation between the minor character and the major character illuminates the meaning of the work.

“Novel” Endings

An effective literary work does not merely stop or cease; it concludes. In the view of some critics, a work that does not provide the pleasure of significant “closure” has terminated with an artistic fault. A satisfactory ending is not, however, always conclusive in every sense; significant closure may require the reader to abide with or adjust to ambiguity and uncertainty. In a well-organized essay, discuss the ending of a novel. Explain precisely how and why the ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Questions and Answers

Critic Roland Barthes has said, “Literature is the question minus the answer.” Choose a novel and, considering Barthes’ observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question the work raises and the extent to which it offers any answers. Explain how the author’s treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

Bad Guys

From a novel, select an important a character who is a villain. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the nature of the character’s villainy and show how it enhances meaning in the work.

Illumination

In *The Writing of Fiction* (1925), novelist Edith Wharton states the following:

At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the illuminating incident to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity.

Choose a novel that you have studied and write a well-organized essay in which you describe an "illuminating" episode or moment and explain how it functions as a "casement," a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.