

St. Augustine High School

English III Reading Lists

2017-2018

Incoming 11th Graders

AP

Title	ISBN	Lexile
<u>The Scarlet Letter</u> by Nathaniel Hawthorne	978-0486280486	1340L
<u>The Great Gatsby</u> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	978-0743273565	1070L
<u>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</u> by Maya Angelou	978-034551440	1070L

On-Level

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Summer Reading Assignment
For Incoming 11th Graders
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

In well-constructed paragraphs, explain the following quotes:

- "They don't really hate us. They don't know us. How can they hate us?" - Chapter 25
- "See, you don't have to think about doing the right thing. If you're for the right thing, then you do it without thinking." - Chapter 36
- "Language is man's way of communicating with his fellow man and it is language alone that separates him from the lower animals." - Chapter 15
- "Like most children, I thought if I could face the worst danger voluntarily, and triumph, I would forever have power over it." - Chapter 2
- "I was never again to sense myself too solidly outside the pale of the human race." - Chapter 32

In a well-thought out, carefully developed, multi-paragraph (a minimum five-paragraph) essay select from the following prompts relating to the themes and title of the novel. In your essay, you will be required to make specific reference to your chosen prompt, selecting and incorporating at least one quote to illustrate each supporting idea including correct MLA format for in-text citations.

- A. What are some of the themes of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*? How can we identify them as such? (Cite textual evidence.)
- B. Where does the title of the book come from and why is it significant? Where do we find this image of the caged bird applied in the story both literally and figuratively?

Summer Reading Assignment
For Incoming 11th Graders
***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

Answer each of the questions thoroughly in the form of a well-constructed paragraph.

1. The novel's action occurs in 1922 between June and September. How does Nick's nonchronological narration shape your response to the events surrounding the mystery of Jay Gatsby?
2. Nick believes he is an honest, nonjudgemental narrator. Do you agree?
3. Gatsby believes that the past can be repeated. Is he right?
4. Why does Daisy sob into the "thick folds" of Gatsby's beautiful shirts?
5. What do the faded eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg symbolize? Is there a connection between this billboard and the green light at the end of Daisy's dock?
6. Perhaps the novel's climax occurs when Gatsby confronts Tom in New York. Did Daisy's ultimate choice surprise you? Is it consistent with her character?
7. Do you agree with Nick's final assertion that Gatsby is "worth the whole damn bunch put together"? Why or why not?
8. How does Fitzgerald foreshadow the tragedies at the end?
9. Does the novel critique or uphold the values of the Jazz Age and the fears of the Lost Generation?

Essay

In a well-thought out, carefully developed, multi-paragraph (a minimum five-paragraph) essay select from the following prompts related to the novel. In your essay, you will be required to make specific reference to your chosen prompt, selecting and incorporating at least one quote to illustrate each supporting idea including correct MLA format for in-text citations.

- A. Fitzgerald wrote, "You don't write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say." What did he have to say in *Gatsby*?
- B. Fitzgerald scholar Matthew J. Bruccoli claims: "*The Great Gatsby* does not proclaim the nobility of the human spirit; it is not politically correct; it does not reveal how to solve the problems of life; it delivers no fashionable or comforting messages. It is just a masterpiece." Do you agree? Why or why not?

Summer Reading Assignment
AP English III -The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Discussion Questions

Answer each of the following questions in well-constructed paragraphs.

Chapters 1-5 Questions:

1. What political, cultural, and religious conditions are already presented in the story? Give specific examples for support.
2. Hester is now protecting two men. In your opinion, does this make her a strong or a weak character? Who do you think she has a loyalty to protect? Give support for both answers.

Chapters 6-9 Questions:

1. The narrator calls the Puritan children “heartless.” Describe the way they treat Pearl. Why do you think the children act like this?
2. Dimmesdale is the only person who supports Hester’s plea to keep Pearl. Is this the position expected of a Puritan minister? Do you think Dimmesdale is an effective religious leader?

Chapters 10-14 Questions:

1. The title of Chapter 10 is “The Leech and His Patient.” Explain why “the leech” is a fitting allusion to Chillingworth.
2. Hester believes she is partly responsible for Chillingworth’s “ruin”. Who or what do you believe is most responsible for the doctor’s ruin?

Chapters 15-19 Questions:

1. Choose one character and identify 2 examples of that character’s good deed or traits. Then identify 2 examples of that character’s bad deeds or traits. (Use the same character) Why do you think Hawthorne gives both good and bad qualities to his characters?
2. Dimmesdale’s guilt is destroying his health. Yet he says Chillingworth is more evil than either himself or Hester. Why does Dimmesdale believe this? Do you agree? Explain your opinion.

Chapters 20-24 Questions:

1. The meaning of the scarlet letter changes throughout the story. Hester tells Chillingworth that the scarlet letter has been her teacher. What lessons does she learn from it? Explain.
2. The narrator urges the reader to learn from Dimmesdale’s experience. Do you think “Be true!” is the most important theme in The Scarlet Letter? If you agree with the narrator explain why. If you disagree, explain which theme you think is most important.

The Scarlet Letter – QUOTES

Directions: Using your knowledge of the novel and Hawthorne's ideals about Puritanism do your best to explain/analyze the meaning (literally, inferentially and figuratively) of each of the following five quotes (2 to 3 paragraphs each).

1. "A writer of story-books! What kind of a business in life, - what ode of glorifying God, or being serviceable to mankind in his day and generation, - may that be? Why, the degenerate fellow might as well have been a fiddler!" Such are the compliments bandied between my great-grandshires and myself, across the gulf of time! And yet, let them scorn me as they will, strong traits of their nature have intertwined themselves with mine.
2. "Mother," said little Pearl, "the sunshine does not love you. It runs away and hides itself, because it is afraid of something on your bosom. . . . It will not flee from me, for I wear nothing on my bosom yet!"
"Nor ever will, my child, I hope," said Hester.
"And why not, mother?" asked Pearl, stopping short. . . . "Will it not come of its own accord, when I am a woman grown?"
3. But Hester Prynne, with a mind of native courage and activity, and for so long a period not merely estranged, but outlawed, from society, had habituated herself to such latitude of speculation as was altogether foreign to the clergyman. She had wandered, without rule or guidance, in a moral wilderness. . . . The scarlet letter was her passport into regions where other women dared not tread. Shame, Despair, Solitude! These had been her teachers,—stern and wild ones,—and they had made her strong, but taught her much amiss.
4. "Mother," said [Pearl], "was that the same minister that kissed me by the brook?"
"Hold thy peace, dear little Pearl!" whispered her mother. "We must not always talk in the marketplace of what happens to us in the forest."
5. But there was a more real life for Hester Prynne here, in New England, than in that unknown region where Pearl had found a home. Here had been her sin; here, her sorrow; and here was yet to be her penitence. She had returned, therefore, and resumed,—of her own free will, for not the sternest magistrate of that iron period would have imposed it,—resumed the symbol of which we have related so dark a tale. Never afterwards did it quit her bosom. But . . . the scarlet letter ceased to be a stigma which attracted the world's scorn and bitterness, and became a type of something to be sorrowed over, and looked upon with awe, and yet with reverence, too.