

## 2021 Summer Reading List

### English IV

**Assignment:** Assignment – Due 1st Week of School Students are to read one book from the list provided and write a literary critique using the structured outline below.

**Paragraph I: Summary** - Provide a brief synopsis of the book to better acquaint your reader with the work. Brief is the key word! If your summary comprises half of the essay, your response will feel unbalanced. It is important to provide an adequate amount of information without giving too much away. Begin your critique with a great quote from the book or some interesting fact. Also include the book's title, author, publication date, and any other information that might be helpful to the reader.

**Paragraph II: Identify** - Identify the main theme of the work. What is the book about? What is the central idea or message the author is trying to convey? What is the major lesson to be learned? Once you have identified the major theme/s of the work, consider whether or not you believe it was conveyed effectively. Was this story a good vehicle to transfer this theme to you as the reader? Why or why not? Use specific evidence from the text to support your argument.

**Paragraph III: Criticism** - Be the critic. Beyond the theme, was this a good story? What did you like about it? Consider the general plot, characters, writer's style and voice, narration, subject matter, etc. What was the author able to do effectively? What did you dislike about it? How did the author fall short of your hopes and expectations? What did they do poorly? How might the book be better improved?

**Paragraph IV: Consideration** - How has this book changed your opinion of the world around you? Consider how this work has altered your perceptions of the topic discussed in the book. Did your opinion on the subject change at all from start to finish? How would you have felt about it before reading the novel? How do you feel now? What specific details from the work compelled this change? If there has been no change, explain what the author could or should have done to better do so.

**Paragraph V: Recommendation** - What is your recommendation regarding this work? Would you encourage a friend or classmate to read it? Would you tell them to avoid it at all cost? Provide some closure to your response with final thoughts on the work. Restate the title, author, and major theme/s of the work, as well as appropriate (to your overall opinion) description of the work. Provide your recommendation, for or against the work. Restate the work's ability, or lack thereof, to compel the reader and creatively find some way to end your critique.

## **Fiction:**

**The Scarlet Letter** - Set in 17th-century Puritan New England, this story of illicit passion, guilt and punishment revolves around the beautiful and mysterious Hester Prynne. She is condemned to wear a scarlet letter as a sign of her adultery, and it has a strange and disturbing effect upon those around her - neighbors, husband, lover and child. The student will find a helpful introduction and a full section of resource notes encouraging active and imaginative study methods.

**1984**—George Orwell In 1984, London is a grim city where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind. Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.

## **Nonfiction:**

**Hidden Figures** - Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were NASA's human computers tasked with performing the difficult mathematical calculations needed to launch rockets into space. In spite of this intensely important work, the black women rarely received the respect they deserved. The civil rights movement and the gender equality movement are both highlighted in this remarkable nonfiction work.

**Federalist Paper #10** - Available at

<https://docs-of-freedom.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/document/attachment/448/Federalist No 10 Excerpts Annotated proof 3 1 .pdf>

Written by James Madison, this essay defended the form of republican government proposed by the Constitution. Critics of the Constitution argued that the proposed federal government was too large and would be unresponsive to the people. In response, Madison explored majority rule v. minority rights in this essay.