

Summer Reading List for Seniors

Choose **two works** to read this summer. **For each piece** of literary work, **choose one task** to perform.

Task#1: Analyze Story Elements-Prepare and deliver a written presentation in which you analyze and evaluate the presentation and development of story elements in a literary work. Explain which work you chose and briefly summarize the setting, situation, characters, conflict, and plot. Discuss how the author orders events and how he or she develops characters or new situations. Explain how the author's choices about the development of the story elements contribute to the narrative's larger meaning or themes. Apply the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage in your writing.

Task #2: Analyze Text Structure-Write an essay in which you analyze how a text's structure contributes to its meaning in a literary work. Choose a work which the author's choices concerning text structure help to clarify and develop central ideas. Determine which structure is being used. Evaluate the way in which the structure helps to introduce and clarify points. Include a judgment as to how effective the author's use of text structure is. Provide examples from the text to support your ideas. Use a variety of sentence lengths in your writing. Combine short, choppy sentences by using coordinating or co-relative conjunctions. End your essay with a conclusion that follows from your discussion and sums up your main points.

Task #3: Analyze the Development of Themes-Write an essay in which you analyze the development of two or more themes in a literary work. State your reasons for your choice. Explain the themes the work expresses and identify specific ways in which each theme is introduced and developed. Include an analysis of how the themes interact and build on one another. Cite specific details from the literary work under discussion to support your analysis. Use appropriate and varied transitions to clarify the relationships among your ideas.

Reading List

The Canterbury Tales-At the Tabard Inn, a tavern in Southwark, near London, the narrator joins a company of twenty-nine pilgrims. The pilgrims, like the narrator, are traveling to the shrine of the martyr Saint Thomas Becket in Canterbury. The narrator gives a descriptive account of twenty-seven of these pilgrims, including a Knight, Squire, Yeoman, Prioress, Monk, Friar, Merchant, Clerk, Man of Law, Franklin, Haberdasher, Carpenter, Weaver, Dyer, Tapestry-Weaver, Cook, Shipman, Physician, Wife, Parson, Plowman, Miller, Manciple, Reeve, Summoner, Pardoner, and Host. (He does not describe the Second Nun or the Nun's Priest, although both characters appear later in the book.) The Host, whose name, we find out in the Prologue to the Cook's Tale, is Harry Bailey, suggests that the group ride together and entertain one another with stories. He decides that each pilgrim will tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back. Whomever he judges to be the best storyteller will receive a meal at Bailey's tavern, courtesy of the other pilgrims. The pilgrims draw lots and determine that the Knight will tell the first tale.

Don Quixote-a Spanish novel by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. It follows the adventures of Alonso Quixano, an hidalgo who reads so many chivalric novels that he decides to set out to revive chivalry,

under the name Don Quixote. He recruits a simple farmer, Sancho Panza, as his squire, who often employs a unique, earthly wit in dealing with Don Quixote's rhetorical orations on antiquated knighthood.

Gulliver's Travels-recounts the story of Lemuel Gulliver, a practical-minded Englishman trained as a surgeon who takes to the seas when his business fails. In a deadpan first-person narrative that rarely shows any signs of self-reflection or deep emotional response, Gulliver narrates the adventures that befall him on these travels.

Pride and Prejudice-by Jane Austen tells us the heart-warming story of getting the man of your dreams – and all the troubles that are connected with it. The Bennett family is living a calm and quiet life in Longbourn. But tempers are rising high when news enters the house that a certain Mr. Bingley, a young man of good fortune, is going to become their neighbor. What a chance for silly Mrs. Bennett to get one of her five daughters married! Will it be her eldest, the beautiful and charming Jane, who gets all of Mr. Bingley's attention? Or is it going to be her less beautiful, but very sensible and witty sister Elizabeth, who will make the big match?

Jane Eyre-is the story of a young, orphaned girl (shockingly, she's named Jane Eyre) who lives with her aunt and cousins, the Reeds, at Gateshead Hall. Like all 19th century orphans, her situation pretty much sucks. Mrs. Reed hates Jane and allows her son John to torment the girl. Even the servants are constantly reminding Jane that she's poor and worthless. At the tender age of ten, Jane rises up against this treatment and tells them all exactly what she thinks of them. (We wish we could've been there to hear it!) She's punished by being locked in "the red-room," the bedroom where her uncle died, and she has a hysterical fit when she thinks his ghost is appearing. After this, nobody knows what to do with her, so they send her away to a religious boarding school for orphans – Lowood Institute.

Crime and Punishment-focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Raskolnikov, an impoverished ex-student in St. Petersburg who formulates and executes a plan to kill an unscrupulous pawnbroker for her cash. Raskolnikov argues that with the pawnbroker's money he can perform good deeds to counterbalance the crime, while ridding the world of a worthless vermin. He also commits this murder to test his own hypothesis that some people are naturally capable of such things, and even have the right to do them. Several times throughout the novel, Raskolnikov justifies his actions by comparing himself with Napoleon Bonaparte, believing that murder is permissible in pursuit of a higher purpose.

The Importance of Being Earnest-is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personæ in order to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. Contemporary reviews all praised the play's humour, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it was the culmination of Wilde's artistic career so far. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make *The Importance of Being Earnest* Wilde's most enduringly popular play.