**Honors American Literature**

**Summer Reading assignment**

**Columbus High school**

**liberal arts college preparatory magnet**

**2023-2024 school year**

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE SUMMER READING LIST

The purpose for summer reading in Honors American Literature is to prepare you for the level of reading, writing, and thinking that is the hallmark of this course. You will complete a writing assignment for Octavia E. Butler’s *Kindred.* Your assignment must be typed and submitted electronically to Canvas and turnitin.com. In addition to submitting your work electronically, make sure that you also save an electronic copy of all of your summer work (on a portable flash drive and/or Office 365).



* ***Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler**

*“Butler’s most celebrated, critically acclaimed work tells the story of Dana, a young black woman who is*

*suddenly and inexplicably transported from her home in 1970s California to the pre–Civil War South. As she*

*time-travels between worlds, one in which she is a free woman and one where she is part of her own complicated*

*familial history on a southern plantation, she becomes frighteningly entangled in the lives of Rufus, a conflicted*

*white slaveholder and one of Dana’s own ancestors, and the many people who are enslaved by him.”*

Complete the reading and writing assignment by the end of July. Make sure you annotate (write notes, questions, highlight, etc.) as you read. WRITE in your book, or if you read the novel online, write notes on paper. This will assist with your overall comprehension of the novel. You will have a writing assignment (dialectical journal) to complete over the summer. **Your writing assignment must be ready for submission on the first day of school. You will be given instructions for submission in class. Please be mindful of avoiding plagiarism.**

**Your task is to read the novel, and complete the following critical reading and writing activities:**

1. **As you read,** you will write a dialectical journal in which you pick 10 significant passages for the required topics listed below. These passages should demonstrate your engagement with the novel. You may give your personal reaction to the selected passage, discuss ideas or actions of the author or character(s), make connections, write what the passage makes you think or feel or analyze the passage and its relationship to the story as a whole. The purpose of the dialectical journal is to help you develop a better understanding of the text as you read. Each response should be at least 3-6 sentences in length (required 50 words or more).

2. Prepare your dialectical journal (via a Word document) that includes the quote from the novel written in MLA format (with page number) **as well as your written response in the third column.**

4. Prepare your entries in a three-column format as the following model illustrates. You may **NOT** use the following example as one of your ten required entries. **Please include your name & assignment title** – ***Kindred* – Dialectical Journal**

**Dialectical Journal format is as follows**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Page #** | **Quote/Passage from the novel:** | **Analysis & Significance:** |
| 1 | “Everything had gone wrong inside this man, absolutely everything, any one of which could have been fatal: the clotting, the massive hemorrhages, the liver turned into pudding, the intestines full of blood. Lacking words, categories, or language to describe what had happened, they called it finally, a case of ‘fulminating liver failure’ ” (Preston 18).  | In this passage the author utilizes scientific details and imagery to describe what Monet suffered after encountering what is perhaps the origin of the virus. This passage reveals the scientific studies in the initial stages prior to isolating a virus or cause of transmission. Perhaps this is the author’s way of shocking the reader into realizing the harsh realities of such a devastating virus while also recognizing the importance of ending its transmission. (71 words) |
|  | * MLA format required!
 | * Word count required!
 |

**REQUIRED TOPICS PER CHAPTER:**

Chapter 1: The River

* Octavia Butler’s *Kindred* contains what literary scholars would call a dual plot structure. Find a quote from the chapter that focuses on one of the novel’s geographic or temporal settings.

Chapter 2: The Fire

* Find a quote from the chapter that focuses on violence in the Antebellum South.

Chapter 3: The Fall

* Find a quote from the chapter that focuses on the indoctrination of slavery.

Chapter 4: The Fight

* Find a quote from the second half of “The Fight” that focuses on two predominant stereotypes about black women that shaped the racist ideology of the 19th-century slavocracy. The first stereotype is that of the matriarchal and subservient “mammy” caricature (Sarah), while the second stereotype is that of the younger and overtly sexualized “Jezebel” caricature.

Chapter 5: The Storm

* Find a quote from the chapter that focuses on what kind of adult Rufus has become.

Chapter 6: The Rope

* Find a quote from the chapter that focuses on the power of self-defense.

Chapter 7: Epilogue

* Find a quote from the chapter that focuses on the aftermath of slavery.

Entries 8-10: Select **three** of the following topics and find quotes that correspond.

* Interracial relationships
* Gender norms
* Symbols of freedom
* How do people change?
* Differing perspectives on slavery

**GRADING FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

**In order to receive full credit, you must meet the following criteria for each entry**:

1. Did you follow the correct MLA format for the quote or passage and the three column format as shown above?

2. Did you give appropriate explanation of your reasoning for the significance of the quote with at least 3-6 sentences and at least 50 words (with word count) per entry?

**Parents & Students: Please feel free to contact Mrs. Jenkins (****Jenkins.Eadeinna.H@muscogee.k12.ga.us** **), Mrs. Landry (****Landry.Aneesah.T@muscogee.k12.ga.us**), **or Mr. Cross (****Cross.Victor.E@muscogee.k12.ga.us****) via email at with any questions or concerns you may have.**