

Dear Grunin Performing Arts Academy student,

Over the summer, the English department wants you to hone your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, so you are required to read your grade's assigned novel and complete a writing assignment analyzing the text. Reminder for students enrolled in AP Language, AP Literature, English 151 and English 152 courses: your assignment is different and can be found on the OCVTS PAA website.

Assignment: Read the novel assigned to your grade and answer the corresponding question in a 400-500 word essay. Your response must be formal, typed, well-written, and proofread, with a heading including your name and grade. Do not include a title page. Font should be Times New Roman, 12. *You are also required to use quotations/support from the novel to answer the question.* Reminder: **GPAA does not tolerate plagiarism or AI-generated responses. You are expected to use your own critical thinking skills to complete the assignment.** In order to maintain academic integrity, any student who has submitted a plagiarized or AI-generated essay will receive a zero and disciplinary action.

Submission: Your assignment is due on September 4, 2024. Your English teacher will send a Google Classroom code to your OCVTS email account. Please join the class and submit your assignment under the submission "Summer Work" in Classroom. Your English teacher may also require you to submit it electronically through a plagiarism checker once school has started.

9th Grade Novel

The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1) by Rick Riordan

Essay Question on Tone and Mood: Tone refers to the attitude an author displays toward her subject or audience. Mood refers to the audience's feeling toward the subject of the writing. Authors work hard to create specific tones and moods in their writing, and the job of a careful reader is to "hear" the tone and mood—not just to read the words on the page. Tone and mood are often subtle. Since we can't literally hear the author's voice, we must infer her tone and mood from evidence in her writing. Reading this way requires careful attention to every choice an author makes. To infer the tone of a piece of literature, we will need to recognize how the author uses each of the following elements: diction, imagery, details, language, and syntax.

Diction refers to the author's choice of words and phrases.

Imagery is a sensory perception created by the author's words.

Details are small, specific facts that the author chooses to include or omit.

Language refers to the register and the style of the author's writing. It also refers to the emotional distance between the author and the subject or the author and the audience.

Syntax is the structure and organization of individual sentences and the piece as a whole.

Write an essay that addresses the following questions. What is the tone of the novel? What methods does the author employ to convey that tone? Why would the author adopt this tone—what effect does it have on you, the reader?

Do not merely summarize the plot.

(Continued on next page.)

10th Grade Novel

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

Essay Question on Conflict: One of the main methods an author uses to express a specific message in a work of fiction is through the use of conflict in a story. Conflicts occur in all stories, either internal or external. What two forces in conflict are presented in the novel? What characters are involved? Consider a character may be in conflict with himself/herself. A character usually learns an important lesson by going through an experience of conflict, and this conflict can reveal an important message in the story. What message is revealed through conflict? Discuss a conflict of your choice and analyze how this develops meaning within the novel.

Do not merely summarize the plot.

11th Grade Novel

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Essay Question on Character: Characters in stories help us see how people might react in various situations. If we relate to the character, that makes the story more meaningful. In that case, we internalize what the character is going through, how they react to it, and how they work through their problems. This allows us to better prepare ourselves for life's circumstances as they arise from us. If we cannot relate to the characters, that is also helpful as we then know how we prefer not to respond to situations. Write a well crafted essay which addresses the main characters in the novel and the impact they have on the audience.

Do not merely summarize the plot.

12th Grade Novel

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Essay Question on Theme: Consider the following quote carefully and craft an essay that succinctly, yet thoroughly, addresses the prompt that follows. “Also people think they’re not computers because they have feelings and computers don’t have feelings. But feelings are just having a picture on the screen in your head of what is going to happen tomorrow or next year, or what might have happened instead of what did happen, and if it is a happy picture they smile and if it is a sad picture they cry.”

How does *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* explore the complexities of emotions?

Do not merely summarize the plot.

Have an excellent, safe, and well-deserved summer vacation. We look forward to a fantastic, productive, and successful year.

Best,

The English Department at PAA – Mrs. Grant, Mr. Mastroianni, Mrs. Stavros