

First Page Impressions: A Short Trot Along the Margins of Literary Genius

Directions:

1-Go to the cart and select three different books to work with.

2- Open each text and flip through until you find the first page of the first chapter: PLEASE SKIP ANY INTRODUCTIONS, PROLOGUES, PREFACES AND/OR REVIEWS. Begin at the beginning of the narrative: Chapter One, Page One.

3- Read the first page or, at most, the first two pages and make good notes as you consider the questions below as well as any other observations you have.

- A. Note the title and author and record your honest reaction to this first page.
- B. Who/what is this book going to be about, specifically?
- C. Will it end well? Explain why you think this.
- D. What kind/style of language is the author using? Make notes about *tone* and **diction**: (*attitude* and **vocabulary**).
- E. Rate the level of difficulty that this text would pose for an average reader on a scale of one to ten:
(1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10) A “1” on this scale might be “easy for a fifth grader” and “10” would be “nobody should even try this stuff without a dictionary, a thesaurus, and a copy of Sparknotes open on their desktop”.)
- F. Copy down three separate words OR one short phrase that justifies the rating you gave in question “E” above.

4- Create a chart from your notes (OVER)

Text Choices:

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- | <u>Title</u> | <u>Author</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • A Good Man is Hard to Find | Flannery O’Connor |
| • Frankenstein | Mary Shelley |
| • The Road | Cormac McCarthy |
| • Beowulf | Old English |
| • The Grapes of Wrath | John Steinbeck |
| • Brave New World | Aldous Huxley |
| • As I Lay Dying | William Faulkner |
| • Going After Cacciato | Tim O’Brien |
| • A Prayer for Owen Meany | John Irving |
| • Their Eyes Were Watching God | Zora Neale Hurston |
| • The Blind Assassin | Margaret Atwood |
| • Walden | Henry David Thoreau |
| • Crime and Punishment | Fyodor Dostoevsky |

- The Sun Also Rises Ernest Hemingway
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Mark Twain
- The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne
- The Invisible Man Ralph Ellison
- Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte
- Pride and Prejudice Jane Austin
- The Handmaid’s Tale Margaret Atwood

Title, author, and two sentence summary of your reaction.	What’s it all about and how can I tell?	Happy or Sad + Why I think so.	Style: Describe Tone and Diction	Hard to Read Test: 1-10	Example words/phrase to justify hardness rating