

Summer Reading - Humanities 11 History and Literature

1. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” – so begins Charles Dickens’s work of historical fiction, *A Tale of Two Cities*. Set during the French Revolution, this novel vividly portrays the political climate in France during the late eighteenth century. Read and annotate your copy of the novel, noting elegant prose and use of literary devices, references to historical events, and the themes of regeneration, love, and sacrifice. Look for literary elements (foreshadowing, simile, personification, and so on), key ideas and concepts, or information which reveals something about a character.

Once you have finished the novel, complete the response column of the double-entry journal (see attached). Find each quote in your book and read it in context. Then fill in the right hand side of the journal with your response to the prompt which follows each quote. Answer in complete sentences. Please bring your copy of the book and your double entry journal to class on the first day of school.

2. Each student will also read one book chosen from the Grade 10-11 Book List. For that book, the student will complete a five-paragraph essay, to be turned in on the first day of school. Students may write their essays on one of the following topics:

*A comparison between two of the major characters, using specific examples from the text.

*An explanation of a major theme of the book with supporting quotes.

*A discussion of setting (time, place, mood/atmosphere) with examples of how the setting advances the plot.

*For non-fiction: A description of challenges faced and how they were overcome.

Checklist for summer essay:

_____ Paper is typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font.

_____ Paper is double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides.

_____ Paper page numbers in the header at the ½ inch margin and a title.

_____ Paper has a thesis statement, three points, and a conclusion.

_____ Paper contains at least three quotations from the book, at least one quote in each paragraph.

_____ All quotations are cited in MLA format (author page number).

_____ Paper contains a Works Cited page.

* *The Works Cited Entry for a book (with no editor or translator):

Author Last Name, Author First Name. *Title*, Publisher, publication date. (hanging indent,

double spaced)

Mrs. Knight can be reached during the summer at eknight@fcsva.com.

Double Entry Journal – *A Tale of Two Cities*

Name _____

<p>It is likely enough that, rooted in the woods of France and Norway, there were growing trees, when that sufferer was put to death, already marked by the woodman, Fate, to come down and be sawn into boards, to make a certain moveable framework with a sack and a knife in it, terrible in history” (2). <i>Identify the foreshadowing in the quote above.</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>“Hunger was pushed out of the tall houses, in the wretched clothing that hung upon poles and lines; Hunger was patched into them with straw and rag and wood and paper; Hunger was repeated in every fragment of the small modicum of firewood that the man sawed off; Hunger stared down from the smokeless chimneys, and started up from the filthy street that had no offal, among its refuse, of anything to eat” (22). <i>Explain the use of anaphora in the quote above. What is its significance?</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>“Death is Nature’s remedy for all things, and why not Legislation’s? Accordingly, the forger was put to death; the utterer of a bad note was put to Death; the unlawful opener of a letter was put to Death; the purloiner of forty shillings and sixpence was put to Death; the holder of a horse at Tellson’s door, who made off with it, was put to Death; the coiner of a bad shilling was put to Death; the sounders of three-fourths of the notes in the whole gamut of Crime, were put to Death” (39). <i>What does the use of anaphora in the quote above reveal about the justice system?</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

“Repression is the only lasting philosophy. The dark deference of fear and slavery, my friend,’ observed the Marquis, ‘will keep the dogs obedient to the whip, as long as this roof,’ looking up to it, ‘shuts out the sky.’ That might not be so long as the Marquis supposed. If a picture of the chateau as it was to be a very few years hence, and of fifty like it as they were to be a very few years hence, could have been shown to him that night, he might have been at a loss to claim his own from the ghastly, firecharred plunder-wrecked ruins” (94).

Explain the opinion stated by the Marquis, then explain the foreshadowing which follows the quote.

Sydney Carton tells Lucie: “For you, and for any dear to you, I would do anything. If my career were of that better kind that there was any opportunity or capacity of sacrifice in it, I would embrace any sacrifice for you and for those dear to you” (117). *Why does he make this offer to Lucie? What do his words foreshadow?*

On the morning of his wedding, Charles Darnay has a meeting with Dr. Manette. After this meeting, the Doctor “was so deadly pale – which had not been the case when they went in together – that no vestige of color was to be seen in his face,” and his countenance “disclosed some shadowy indication that the old air of avoidance and dread had lately passed over him, like a cold wind” (149). *What has Charles told him? What change occurs to the Doctor soon after the wedding?*

“With a roar that sounded as if all the breath in France had been shaped into the detested word, the living sea rose, wave on wave, depth on depth, and overflowed the city to that point. Alarm-bells ringing, drums beating, the sea raging and thundering on its new beach, the attack begun . . . A white flag from within the fortress, and a parley – this dimly perceptible through the raging storm, nothing audible in it – suddenly the sea rose immeasurably wider and higher” (166). *What is the metaphor in this passage? Explain its connection with the historical event described (the storming of the Bastille).*

The shadow attendant on Madame Defarge and her party seemed to fall so threatening and dark on the child, that her mother instinctively kneeled on the ground beside her, and held her to her breast. The shadow attendant on Madame Defarge and her party seemed then to fall, threatening and dark, on both the mother and the child” (207). *What effect is achieved by the shadow imagery in this passage? What events does the use of this imagery foreshadow later in the novel?*

After he arrives in Paris, Sydney Carton says: “this is a desperate time, when desperate games are played for desperate stakes. Let the Doctor play the winning game; I will play the losing one” (232). *Explain the events to which he refers by the use of the game metaphor.*

Doctor Manette had concluded the letter written during his imprisonment with the words: "them and their descendants, to the last of their race, I Alexandre Manette, unhappy prisoner, do this last night of the year 1767, in my unbearable agony, denounce to the times when all these things shall be answered for. I denounce them to Heaven and to earth" (258). *What is supremely ironic about this denunciation? How do these words advance the plot of the novel?*

"There were many women at that time, upon whom the time laid a dreadfully disfiguring hand; but, there was not one among them more to be dreaded than this ruthless woman . . . imbued from her childhood with a brooding sense of wrong, and an inveterate hatred of a class, opportunity had developed her into a tigress. She was absolutely without pity" (281). *Explain this description of Madame Defarge. What in her childhood had caused this "brooding sense of wrong"?*

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (292). *Sydney Carton meditates on this verse as he prepares to sacrifice his life for Darnay's, and Dickens inserts it again immediately before his execution. What is the significance of this verse for Carton?*

Grades 10-11 Summer Reading List 2021

Fiction

Author	Title
Bronte, Charlotte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Cather, Willa	<i>My Antonia</i>
Dickens, Charles	<i>Great Expectations</i>
Lewis, C.S.	<i>Till We Have Faces</i>
Tolstoy, Leo	<i>War and Peace</i>
Wiesel, Elie	<i>The Night Trilogy (ALL 3)</i>
Wilde, Oscar	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>

Non-Fiction

Author	Title
Baer, Marc	<i>Mere Believers: How Eight Faithful Lives Changed the Course of History</i>
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich	<i>The Cost of Discipleship</i>
Heyerdahl, Thor	<i>Kon Tiki</i>
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Unbroken</i>
Kolata, Gina	<i>Flu</i>
Lewis, C.S.	<i>Surprised by Joy</i>
Singh, Simon	<i>Fermat's Enigma</i>

Drama

Author	Title
Sophocles	<i>Three Theban Plays – read 2 of 3</i>
Shakespeare, William	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
Hansbury, Lorraine	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>