

Making the M.O.S.T.T. out of your Summer Reading

Directions: When you do your summer reading for Humanities, follow these simple steps to maximize your experience with the text and, at the same time, make it easy to review the novel.

STEP 1: “M” Make a list of all the characters you encounter as you read. Put this list in the front of your book. Add a short description of the character so you can easily recall him or her.

STEP 2: “O” Organize the plot by writing a summary of each chapter after you have read it thoroughly. Your summary can be 1-2 sentences.

STEP 3: “S” Stick a tab in the book whenever you come to a place in the text where the characters, the writing, the plot elements reach a high level of engagement for you. Have at least five tabs.

STEP 4: “T” Take the time to record on a Word document (or notebook paper, or your notes app on your phone) any unfamiliar words you find as you read. Identify and define at least ten new words. If you organize these unknowns by chapter and underline them when you encounter them, you simplify your job of writing them down when you finish the chapter.

STEP 5: “T” *THEME* means the truth, the lesson, and/or the moral the author incorporates into his or her writing. *THEME* makes the book relevant and significant to the reader; the novel **entertains** us, but if one looks beyond the lines of the text, the novel can also **teach** us something important about life. At the back of the book, list any themes you see in the novel.

STEP 6: Write all of these steps on a Word Document in proper MLA formatting. See provided example for help. This will be a test grade to start off the beginning of your 8th grade year.

****NOTE:** The use of SparkNotes (or other summary websites) or the collaboration with or copying of another student's work will be considered as *plagiarism*. This is cheating and will result with a ZERO for this test grade.

Grading Rubric for Supplemental Summer Reading Novel

M Make a list of characters, and add a short description of each.

Characters listed _____ 10

Characters described _____ 10

O Organize chapters by writing a one or two sentence summary.

_____ 20

S Stick a tab in the book when you become highly engaged; write a brief explanation of what happens at this juncture and why it engaged you. Have at least five tabs.

_____ 20

T Take the time to record TEN unfamiliar words: define each one, using quotation marks, brackets and ellipses, give part of the sentence in which the word was used; use a citation to identify the author and the page number of the sentence.

_____ 20

T Theme explains the truth, the lesson, and/or the moral the author incorporates into his or her writing. List at least ONE theme and explain how that theme presents itself in the novel.

_____ 20

Total _____

Comments: