

POSNACK

S C H O O L

English Language and Composition AP - 2020 - 2021 Summer Assignment

All work due the first day back to school

Assignment 1: TWO Required Texts:

The Great Gatsby - by F. Scott Fitzgerald

In Cold Blood - by Truman Capote

Read and annotate the two novels. As you annotate, consider the themes below. Your annotations for these themes will help you prepare for and write the in-class essays on each of the two novels when you return to school. You will receive different types of scoring rubrics in class.

Themes for Consideration:

The Past

How does a person's past influence his or her thoughts, opinions, and/or actions in the present? Annotate your novel to show how one or more characters contend with aspects of the past. How does the past affect their present behaviors?

Appearance vs. Reality

What character(s) interpret different situations the way they wish they were instead of what they actually are? What are the positive or negative effects of such misinterpretation? Annotate your novel to show how one or more character is affected by appearance versus reality.

Social values/class distinctions

How does class distinction and/or differing social values affect one or more characters? How does this impact the way others treat the character(s) and/or said character(s) behave? Annotate your book to show how characters are affected by social values and/or class.

Assignment 2: Read *The Dante Club* – by Matthew Pearl

The Dante Club is a literary mystery that incorporates the punishments found in Dante's *Inferno* with a historical interpretation of 1865 Boston in the post Civil War era. While a group of prestigious intellectuals works on an English translation of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, several ghastly Dante-related murders occur. Meanwhile, Pearl depicts conflicts at Harvard University (which he attended before Yale Law School) over Darwin's theory of Evolution, the Fugitive Slave Act, and more, along with a subplot in which Nicholas Rey, Boston's first black police officer, faces racism, as do Italian immigrants.

Assignment:

In the novel, a dark wood is a metaphor for a trial that brings a character to despair. Write a well-developed essay on one character's dark wood throughout the novel. The best are Longfellow, Holmes, and Dan Teal, but you may opt for another.

-Write an opening paragraph with your thesis statement at the end; give at least two developmental paragraphs with cited quotes to support your thesis and a brief conclusion of two or three sentences.

-In clear note form, describe the murders in chronological order and give the victims, possible motives, and parallels to Dante's *Inferno*.