

2021-2022

AP English Lit Summer Assignment

Google Classroom Code: qwxsxyf

The Text:

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Synopsis

"A gripping vision of our society radically overturned by a theocratic revolution, Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* has become one of the most powerful and most widely read novels of our time. Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, serving in the household of the enigmatic Commander and his bitter wife. She may go out once a day to markets whose signs are now pictures because women are not allowed to read. She must pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, for in a time of declining birthrates her value lies in her fertility, and failure means exile to the dangerously polluted Colonies. Offred can remember a time when she lived with her husband and daughter and had a job, before she lost even her own name. Now she navigates the intimate secrets of those who control her every move, risking her life in breaking the rules. "

Assignments:

Be prepared to take a comprehensive test over *The Handmaid's Tale* on the first day of class.

Essay

At the center of every dystopian novel is the role of the individual and society. In a well developed essay, explain how this theme is used to create the bleak society of the novel.

Character Sketch

GUIDELINES FOR "ONE-PAGER" CHARACTER SKETCH

1. The name of the character you have chosen should be prominently displayed on the page (at the top, in the center, etc.) (3 points)
2. Use a sheet of white or colored paper approximately 8 1/2 x 11" with no lines. No Posterboard
3. Put your name on the back in the upper right corner. (2 points)
4. Somewhere on the front of the paper include an illustration of some kind (drawn, cut from a magazine, computer generated, etc. and in ink or colored pencils) which represents the character. Your illustration can take up as much of your page as you like but remember that you have to also include other things (as follows). (15 points)
5. Type a brief reason for your illustration choice - no more than 5 sentences. "This illustration represents..." (20 points)

6. Leave some space and include a quote by or about the character. Be sure you type the quote correctly and include the page number where you found it. If the quote is about the character, include who said it. (15 points)

7. In a short paragraph (no more than 50 words), explain some conflict, catharsis, or transformation experienced by the character in the novel. Be sure you put the word count! (25 points)

8. Somewhere on the page list 5 good strong adjectives to describe the character. These should be upper-level words, but not obscure! (10 points)

9. The overall appearance of the project will be worth 10 points.