



11TH GRADE REQUIRED SUMMER READING

Please purchase the specific editions listed below (publisher, year, and ISBN).

TEXTS

Hamlet by William Shakespeare (ISBN: 9780393640106, Norton Critical Edition; 2nd Edition, 2019)

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (ISBN: 9780393927535, Norton Critical Edition; 2006) – There are copies available in the Rhetoric School Admin Office—first come, first served.

[Note: For both plays, students need only read the introduction and play, not the contexts and critical essays]

ASSIGNMENTS (You will use this format for the entire year)

Reading Guide: (complete one guide for *Hamlet* and one for *Ernest* – each is 100 points)

1. Do not read passively. Have a pencil ready to engage in conversation with a writer who is trying to convince you of something.
2. Head your notes properly:
 - a. Write the title. Is there a subtitle? (It normally provides more detail). (5 points)
 - b. Write the Author's Name and any important information about him or her (check the Preface). (5)
 - c. Summarize the Introduction: it provides the main idea or plan of the book. (15)
 - d. Observe the Table of Contents: it is the map of the book.
3. Underline and annotate as you read. Write questions you have or things you disagree with and why.
4. Record words you don't already know (at least 5 per Act), look them up, and write their definitions. (25)
5. After you read each Act, summarize it in one to three sentences. (Look for connections between Acts.) (20)
6. Make a list of characters: their name, age, status, relationships, etc. (10)
7. Through the events in the story, what values and ideas are being defended or attacked? (20)

Big Picture Questions: (answer all questions for each play - each set of 6 is 100 points)

1. Based on the characters' actions, what does the author believe about God? Does he or she believe God exists? If so, in what kind of God does the author believe? (18 points)
2. What does the author believe about ultimate reality? Is there anything beyond the physical universe? Is the physical universe all there is? (18)
3. What does the author believe about knowledge and how we come by it? Does he or she believe in absolute truth? Does he or she believe there are truths whether anyone believes them or not? (16)
4. What does the author believe about morality (right and wrong) and making judgments? Are right and wrong the same for everybody? Upon what standard do the characters base their judgments? (16)
5. What does the author believe about the nature of humanity? Do people have any worth? What contrasts between characters highlight differences in human worth, status, or growth? (16)

6. What does the author believe about the point of history? Do things happen for a reason? Do historical events matter? (16)