



Wheeling Park High School

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Elements of Style by E. B. White

As an AP Language and Composition student, your summer assignment is to read *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. You are also to complete written assignments on the readings during the summer months.

Writing Assignments for *Things Fall Apart* and *Of Mice and Men*:

You are to respond to the readings in journal entries. Because I do not know what each student's experience has been in journal writing to date, I offer the following guidelines and assume that if they are carefully followed, they will meet my expectations and requirements for this assignment.

Format of the journal:

1. Write the title (underline or italicize) and the author at the beginning entry for each new book.
2. Date each entry.
3. Use regular lined loose-leaf paper if handwritten. Write legibly, preferably in ink. Do not write on the back of the paper. You may use a computer for your entries, but it must be in Times New Roman font and 12 font size.

Content:

1. You must have a significant entry in both substance and in length for approximately every 50 pages read. Be sure to indicate page numbers to which you are responding.
2. The following sample questions are only suggestions and are intended to provide guidance and direction for your entries. *Things Fall Apart* and *Of Mice and Men* are very different styles of writing. **Do not summarize the plot.** Interact with the plot without retelling it. This is easy to do by choosing any one question that works the best to respond for each entry of approximately 50 pages.

- What surprised you about the section you have just read?

- What startling /unusual/effective words, phrases, expressions, or images did you come across in your reading today that you would like to have explained or clarified?
 - How much do you personally agree or disagree with the way various characters think and act and the kinds of beliefs and values they hold? Where do they differ and why?
 - What feelings did you experience in response to events or characters (irritation, wonder, disbelief, recognition, etc.) and why do you think you responded this way?
 - What is the writer's main point?
 - Can you state parallels with your own experience?
 - Do you recognize themes or ideas from other works you have read?
 - What is the writer's style?
 - Do you agree with the writer's ideas? How persuasive is the writer?
3. Jot down unfamiliar words or words used in an unfamiliar way. Look up their meaning and write an appropriate definition.
 4. I also expect you to reflect upon your reading and then generate and record your own questions to which you may respond or have others respond in the future.

Additionally, you are to read and prepare for a test on *Elements of Style* by E. B. White that will be given within the first couple of weeks after school begins in August. My expectation is that you arrive in September with a firm grammatical foundation.

Evaluative Criteria:

Your entries indicate that you have—

1. Kept a complete record of the titles of each independent reading selection and followed the requested format.
2. Included the requested number of personal responses for each selection and developed entries of substance.
3. Noted unfamiliar vocabulary and recorded definitions.
4. Generated questions for later discussion.

If you have any questions about any of the assignments or materials, please stop by Mrs. Hoffman's room (334B) or Mrs. Johnson's room (340A) before school is out for the summer or contact Mrs. Hoffman via email at shoffman@access.k12.wv.us or Mrs. Johnson at jljohnson@access.k12.wv.us .

Happy reading!