

# **BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2022 SUMMER READING PROGRAM**



**TWELFTH GRADE WORLD LITERATURE**

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**All World Literature students must complete the following assignment – Honors see additional assignment.**

\* The required summer reading book is *The Iguana Tree* by Michel Stone

Set amid the perils of illegal border crossings, *The Iguana Tree* is the suspenseful saga of Lilia and Hector, who separately make their way from Mexico into the United States, seeking work in the Carolinas and a home for their infant daughter.

Michel Stone's harrowing novel meticulously examines the obstacles each faces in pursuing a new life: manipulation, rape, and murder in the perilous commerce of border crossings; betrayal by family and friends; exploitation by corrupt officials and rapacious landowners on the U.S. side; and, finally, the inexorable workings of the U.S. justice system.

Your assignment is due, **August 12, 2022.**

#### Writing Prompts for Literary Analysis

##### *The Iguana Tree*

Choose one of the following prompts and compose a 500 – 750 word essay based on the novel.

1. One of the most revealing types of conflict occurs when a character's inner struggles are resolved at great personal price. Often, the character learns a lesson, but too late to help himself or another character. Explain how, in the book, a character struggles but fails to learn a lesson in time, and thus, serves as an example for the reader. In your essay, focus on the conflict within the character. Be sure to include the price paid as part of the resolution and the lesson to be learned. Use at least 3 quotes from the book in your essay.
2. Often in literary works, authors choose a physical object which takes on a special significance in the work and becomes a symbol of something beyond itself. Show how, in the book, the author uses a symbol to convey an important meaning. In your essay, focus on the symbol and what it symbolizes. Be sure to discuss how the author uses it to convey a message to readers. You may choose three important symbols from the novel, or you may choose to elaborate on one symbol that is used throughout the novel.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Grade World Literature Summer Reading Assignment: Learning Goal and Guidelines.**

Learning Goal: Develop and demonstrate our reading comprehension, critical thinking and academic writing skills by composing a thoughtful, thorough, well-supported and organized literary analysis in response to a writing prompt.

Use the following description of a strong literary analysis to guide the quality of your essay:

A strong literary analysis establishes a clear and defensible topic (thesis) in its introductory paragraph and uses the remainder of the essay to support the topic with one's own thoughts and insights and with relevant and thoroughly interpreted and analyzed evidence from the work of literature used.

The *Cambridge Dictionary* definition of the word, “thesis,” is:

The main idea, opinion, or theory of a person, group, piece of writing, or speech.

The *Cambridge Dictionary* definition of the word, “analysis,” is:

The process of studying or examining something in an organized way to learn more about it.

#### Guidelines for a Successful Thesis-Based Literary Analysis:

1. Closely examine the writing prompt in order to determine what a thorough answer to the prompt might require. In your essay, be sure to meet or exceed the prompt's requirements.
2. Clearly and immediately present the topic (thesis) of your discussion in your introductory paragraph in order to ensure that your reader knows what the essay will discuss. Your thesis and introductory paragraph should clearly address the prompt but should not merely restate the prompt.
3. When writing the body paragraphs that support the thesis, make sure that your body paragraphs support the thesis with a combination of your own relevant thoughts and insights about the work of literature and textual evidence from the work of literature that is thoroughly interpreted and analyzed. Your reader should fully understand how and why your textual evidence supports your essay's thesis.
4. Review your essay to ensure that it is written clearly and that it represents your most current knowledge of grammar, spelling and the appropriate style for an academic essay. Upon reviewing your responses, make any and all necessary grammar, spelling and style corrections.

**Additional Honors Assignment – Due July 12<sup>th</sup> but may be submitted on August 12<sup>th</sup> without penalty.**

#### **Summer Reading Assignment #2**

**Your second assignment, *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski. As you read this book take note of the themes of betrayal, rejection, and the dynamics of the family.**

It is **essential** that you take notes on the reading. Look for and identify important passages from the novel (with page numbers) that reveal the character and the essential themes that arise in the novel. As you read the novel, concentrate your efforts on looking for references to the following themes and recording them along with your thoughts and reactions on them.

1. Loss of innocence and coming of age
2. Redemption of the human spirit
3. Social evils and the pain brought on by society
4. People's inner conflicts (good vs. evil)
5. The destructive power of insecurity
6. The lingering impact of guilt

Complete the following as you read the novel:

- You will address all six topic/themes from above
- Gather at least three significant passages for each of the six themes.
- Type the quotes that support the themes and give the page numbers of which they are found. Explain how they pertain to the theme.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Summer Reading Assignment: Learning Goal and Guidelines.**

- Learning Goal: Develop and demonstrate our ability to use annotations to thoughtfully and thoroughly explain how and why moments in a literary work reveal and develop its characters and essential themes.
- Use the following description of meaningful note-taking (annotation) and a strong written explanation of an essential theme in a work of literature to guide the quality of your responses:
- For this assignment, your annotations (notes) will focus on moments in the text that are relevant to the text's essential themes. In addition to indicating the location of the relevant moment in the text, a meaningful annotation provides a reader's initial thoughts about the specific moment in the text. You will expand these thoughts when using them to explain and support each essential theme.
- A strong explanation of an essential theme in a work of literature is clearly supported by relevant and thoroughly interpreted and analyzed textual evidence. The reader of the explanation fully understands how and why the student's thoughts and observations and the textual evidence pertain to the particular theme.
- The *Cambridge Dictionary* definition of the word, "interpret," is:
- To decide what the intended meaning of something is.
- The *Cambridge Dictionary* definition of the word, "analyze," is:
- To study or examine something in detail in order to discover more about it.
- Guidelines for Successful Explanations of Essential Themes in a Work of Literature:

- 1. Closely examine the wording of each essential theme in order to determine what each theme is expressing and suggesting.
- 2. Take notes about moments in the text that relate to each theme's direct and suggested meaning. When taking notes, briefly indicate how and why the particular moment in the text relates to each theme's direct and suggested meaning.
- 3. Provide full explanations when providing your thoughts and observations about the connections between the quotes that you have selected and the corresponding essential theme. In these explanations, expand on your annotations by adding further thoughts and observations that explain why and how the particular moment in the text pertains to the corresponding essential theme.
- 4. Review your responses to ensure that they are written clearly and that they represent your most current knowledge of grammar, spelling and the writing style that is appropriate for an academic discussion. Upon reviewing your responses, make any and all necessary grammar and spelling corrections.