

AP English IV - Quarter 3

Choice Novel Group Discussion and Presentation

Introduction:

The purpose of the third quarter Choice Novel Study is to offer students an opportunity for intense discussion and analysis of a contemporary literary work of merit, in addition to exposing them to further modern pieces which they may then study independently. The out-of-class reading includes an online book chat with the other members of the choice novel group. The in-class analysis of the choice novel will occur over several days with varying requirements for each.

Day #1: Wednesday, February 22

All students will meet with their group members to begin the collaborative process. Group members will also be expected to familiarize themselves with group work on the Google drive.

Part of your preparation for in-class discussion requires you to contribute your experience reading of the novel, interpretation of the novel, and notes about the novel to the group online discussion. All groups will be assigned an online space to add contributions. The expectation is that each group member will contribute equally, and this will be assessed. A folder will be created for the choice novel; I will have access to this folder and will be monitoring your contributions to the online space.

Here are some of the tasks that must be accomplished:

- Create a **folder** for your choice novel. Share the folder with your group members and me. Use the title of your novel and the period #.
- Inside the folder, create an **expectations document**. This should include reading due dates (ie. How much should be read by 2 / 25?), online posting expectations, and responding to posting expectations. It is expected that you will communicate with one another periodically as you read the novel. Consider what each member needs to contribute to ensure success for the presentation at the end. For organizational purposes, I would recommend assigning each group member a color for typing in the chat document.
- Inside the folder, create a **book chat document**. Throughout the reading of the novel, all students should be posting to the chat document (see requirements for this document below). Group members should contribute information about their experience reading the novel and their interpretation of the novel.
- Throughout your reading of the novel, post regularly to the book chat document. You need to have at least six initial posts and six responses to your classmates. Initial posts should include a specific quotation from the text. Your responses should be 5-6 sentences. Every post related to the novel must begin with a page check (ie. Read through page 72) in order to avoid spoilers. Consider including the following or an idea of your own:
 - Questions about the text (and subsequent answers)
 - Significant passages and analysis of passages
 - Connections within the text to various parts of the text
 - Application of Foster or literary criticisms
 - Something particularly interesting, engaging, or enjoyable
 - Essential questions the novel address with tentative answers
 - Images or quotes that relate to your book or can provoke discussion
- Be responsible for sharing your thoughts and ideas. Don't wait for your group members to

ask you to do so, and don't expect a free ride. All must contribute equally.

Day #2: Wednesday, March 1

You will have time to read today during class. Be sure to bring your novel with you to class.

Days #3 - #7: Monday, March 6 - Friday, March 10

All students will have completed reading their chosen novels by Monday, March 6 and will meet with their respective groups in the ensuing days to prepare a presentation.

- The choice novel test will be administered **Monday, March 6**.
- All posts and responses are due **Monday, March 6**, as well.
- One annotated critical essay from each member of the group is due on **Tuesday, March 7**. The critical essay should be from a subscription based database like Gale or Artemis which are available through the LMC. The article should NOT be a simple literature review of only one or two pages.
- Students may wish to refer to Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* for additional assistance regarding what to closely analyze in the text. In addition, consider the literary critical theories presented during *Heart of Darkness*.
- Groups will meet for the entire period on these work days to sift through the information and discussion notes and share insights from their individual understandings in order to craft a presentation.
- Groups will need to create an agreed upon core focus and craft the scope and sequence of the presentation, so these days must be productive in order to prevent the need for the entire group to meet out of class. Ideally, the first day or two will be used to discuss the experience and interpretation of reading the novel. The following days will be used to create and practice the presentation. Given the in-class time provided for discussion and preparation, we expect very strong, well-planned, and polished presentations.

Day #8 - #10: Monday, March 13 - Wednesday, March 15

Presentation guidelines will be given on the day of the reading test, March 6.