

Ideas & Themes in Literature – English 12 Honors

Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: Students will read *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz.

It is expected of my honors students to understand that literature for class should be used for study purposes. Students should have a goal in mind, pen in hand, and dictionary nearby at all times while they read. The goal is not to finish the novel as fast as possible, but to dissect, and examine the novel as we progress through it. We will be treating all novels *as* study guides.

Much of the class is designed around enlightenment, & redemption, & therefore lends itself to introspection. In the best selling book *The Four Agreements* Don Miguel Ruiz gives four principles to practice in order to create love and happiness in our lives. Adopting and committing to these agreements is simple. Actually living and keeping these Four Agreements can be one of the hardest things you will ever do. It can also be one of the most life changing things you will ever do.

With this in mind I would like my students to complete four typed journal entries; a personal response to each Agreement. Each entry should follow MLA format, be around a paragraph in length, & include a properly cited quote from the text; something that touches you personally. The entry can discuss your personal reaction to the Agreement and any possible connection you may be able to make to your own life, the world today, or any literature you may recall.

The novel is widely available but can also be found online here:

http://www.universe-people.com/english/svetelna_knihovna/hm/en/en_kniha_the_four_agreements.htm

For annotation purposes I've attached an outline below. We will be using this method in class throughout the year.

Happy Reading & see you in September! ☺

HOW TO ANNOTATE USING THE “C.A.P.E” METHOD

“C.A.P.E.” is an acronym designed to help you remember the four essential aspects of literature that we will be discussing throughout the upcoming school year. Whenever you annotate a text, keep these four letters in mind to generate substantive notes for future quizzes and writing assignments. Make sure you focus on all of these aspects when reading and use them to assist you in completing your in-text annotations.

I. “C” - **CHARACTERS**: Repeat the process below for each major character.

- Identify the name of Character:
 - Write an adjective/brief description that accurately illustrates his/her character.
 - *Highlight or underline quotes to support the adjectives you have chosen.*
 - Be sure to briefly interpret the quote in the margins including both “direct characterization” and “indirect characterization.”

II. “A” - **AIM** (THEME/MOTIFS/PURPOSE): Repeat the process below for each of the major themes you are able to identify.

- On the side margin, please note each theme you have identified in the story:
 - *Highlight or underline specific instances/scenes/moments where this theme is present.*
 - Explain how this theme may be relatable to the reader/humanity.

III. “P” - **PROBLEM** (CONFLICT/ISSUE): Repeat the process below for each of the main conflicts you identify.

- On the side margin, please note the main Conflict:
 - Identify the character(s) involved in this particular problem. What are their motivations/goals? Who/What is obstructing their goal(s)? Have/Will they overcome this obstruction—enlightenment?
 - *Highlight or underline quotes to illustrate the problem listed and quotes to illustrate a solution if applicable.*

IV. “E” - **EXPRESSION OF LITERATURE** (LITERARY TECHNIQUES/DEVICES): Using the list provided, repeat the process below for each of the literary techniques you find repeated throughout the stories. (Obviously if you find devices not on the list, feel free to include them in your annotations.)

- Identify the Literary Technique(s)/Device(s) you have found in the story:
 - Define what the literary technique is.
 - *Highlight or underline quotes that depict the literary technique within the literature.*
 - Explain how the author uses literary techniques to develop the main idea of the story. (Below is a list of some you may come across.)

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| allegory(genre) | alliteration | allusion | antagonist | archetype |
| aside | couplet | dialogue | diction | flashback |
| foil | foreshadowing | hyperbole | imagery | irony |
| metaphor | monologue | mood | personification | pun |
| repetition | rhyme | satire (genre) | setting | simile |
| soliloquy | symbolism | theme | tone | |