AP English Literature and Composition Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Theme Study**

The course essential question is: ***How does the deep analysis of and writing about English literature of varying genres and ages inform our understanding of what it means to be human?*** To answer this question, you will write a 10- to 12-page paper that focuses on how three authors explore a common theme. What are they telling us, how are they telling us, and why are they telling us?

Requirements

1. Choose one topic (see below) that interests you.

2. Choose three books. 3. For each book:

- Read and annotate for theme - Do research on the author

- Read two literary criticism essays - Write a Theme Study Book Analysis Essay

4. Answer the theme study prompt in a 12- to 15-page essay (MLA format, including Works Cited page).

5. **Choose a topic that deeply speaks to you.** You may choose books not on this list with my approval.

Coming of Age

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| *Siddhartha*, by Hermann Hesse  *Ellen Foster*, by Kaye Gibbons  *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte  *The Kite Runner*, by Khlaed Hosseini  *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain  *Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger | *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens  *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith  *This Boy’s Life*, by Tobias Wolff  *Madame Bovary*, by Gustave Flaubert  *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding  *Angela’s Ashes*, by Frank McCourt |

Person vs. Self

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| --- | --- |
| *Oedipus the King*, by Sophocles  *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison  *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare  *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley  *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky | *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison  *Beowulf*, by Author Unknown  *The Shipping News*, E. Annie Proulx  *Continental Drift*, by Russell Banks  *Americanah,* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie |

Freedom

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| --- | --- |
| *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison  *Cry, the Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton  *The Awakening*, by Kate Chopin  *Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison | *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison  *Song of Solomon*, by Toni Morrison  *The Hours*, by Michael Cunningham  *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker  *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley |

Hero & Antihero

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| --- | --- |
| *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus  *Oedipus the King*, by Sophocles  *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare  *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  *The Metamorphosis*, by Franz Kafka  *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald | *The Odyssey*, by Homer  *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, by Dave Eggers  *The Idiot*, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving  *The Count of Monte Cristo*, by Alexandre Dumas |

Journeys

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| --- | --- |
| *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley  *Siddhartha*, by Hermann Hesse  *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain  *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri  *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck | *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy  *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer  *On the Road*, by Jack Kerouac  *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel  *Rule of the Bone*, by Russell Banks |

Friendship & Love

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| --- | --- |
| *The Awakening*, by Kate Chopin  *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by Tennessee Williams  *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne  *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison  *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Bronte  *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini  *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald | *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck  *Ethan Frome*, by Edith Wharton  *Mama Day*, by Gloria Naylor  *The Age of Innocence*, by Edith Wharton  *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker  *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*, by D.H. Lawrence |

Death

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| --- | --- |
| *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus  *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison  *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Bronte  *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky | *In Cold Blood*, by Truman Capote  *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  *The Executioner’s Song*, by Norman Mailer  *Red Badge of Courage*, by Stephen Crane |

Man vs. God / Religion

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| --- | --- |
| *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus  *Oedipus the King*, by Sophocles  *Siddhartha*, by Hermann Hesse  *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne  *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller | *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver  *Reservation Blues*, by Sherman Alexie  *Peace Like a River*, by Leif Enger  *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce  *Bee Season,* by Myla Goldberg |

Person vs. Society

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| --- | --- |
| *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus  *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison  *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne  *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain  *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky | *1984*, by George Orwell  *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley  *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, by Ken Kesey  *The Handsmaid’s Tale*, by Margaret Atwood  *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck |

Assignments and Deadlines

1. Choose theme and 3 books. Friday, Nov. 20, 2015

2. Book #1

Read and annotate Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016

Research author & read/annotate 2 lit crit articles Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016

Theme Study Book Analysis Essay #1 Monday, Jan. 11, 2016

3. Book #2

Read and annotate Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016

Research author & read/annotate 2 lit crit articles Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016

Theme Study Book Analysis Essay #2 Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016

4. Book #3

Read and annotate Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Research author & read/annotate 2 lit crit articles Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Theme Study Book Analysis Essay #3 Monday, April 10, 2016

5. Draft #1

Complete Theme Study with Works Cited Page Monday, April 18, 2016

Writing Conference by appointment Week of April 18, 2016

6. Draft #2

Complete Theme Study with Works Cited Page Monday, April 25, 2016

7. Final Draft Monday, May 16, 2016

8. Celebration Friday, May 27, 2016