**ENG3U Independent Novel Study – Part 1**

**QUESTIONS:**

This is an important part of your overall project and will show your ability to formally analyse a piece of literature independently.

You should prepare for this assignment by:

* Reading your novel carefully and making detailed notes on the questions provided in this package;
* Identifying key supporting evidence by placing ‘sticky notes’ or bookmarks in the novel so that you can find these passages quickly;
* Reviewing all notes (studying) prior to the days when this assignment will be completed during class time.

Requirements:

* Responses will be written during class time;
* You may bring your novel to class, but you may not bring in prepared answers;
* You must respond using formal, literary language;
* Answers should be supported with textual quotations.

**Answer 5 out of the 12 questions below.**

**Questions**

1. What is the significance of the setting? How does it influence the characters? The plot?
2. Describe the protagonist of the novel. Consider his/her character traits, motivation, conflict, values, etc. How does the character evolve throughout the novel?
3. What character(s) do you find most intriguing or interesting? Is there a character with whom you can identify?
4. What is the narrative point of view of the novel and what particular advantages does the point of view offer?
5. Does the author create suspense effectively in the novel? Illustrate.
6. How is the conflict resolved? Does the ending seem “right” or “just”? How might you rewrite the ending?
7. State the theme of the novel. What idea(s) has the writer dramatized? How does he/she illustrate the theme most cogently?
8. How do you think the novelist’s view of the world or philosophy of life is reflected in the novel? Do you know how the writer’s life may have influence the novel? What would you ask the writer if you had an opportunity to speak to him/her?
9. What stylistic features of the writing are most distinctive? (Consider language, special techniques such as contrast, irony, satire, humour, symbolism, allegory, etc.)
10. Suggest thematic connections between the novel and other literary works, art, film, etc. Do you know a story similar to the novel?
11. How would you bring this novel to the screen? What aspect would be the focus? Who would play the leading roles? What interpretation of the characters and theme would you emphasize and how would you achieve your purpose?
12. Evaluate the novel by describing a significant weakness and strength. In your opinion, what is the most powerful or compelling aspect of the novel?

**ENG3U Independent Novel Study – Part 2**

**SECTION A: FOUND ITEMS**

Collect at least **FIVE** different items. Be vigilant in surveying the media regularly for relevant items. Ensure that both your sources and your collection are as wide ranging and varied as possible. For each item, write a commentary explaining why you chose it and what connection it has to your novel:

* Identify the source; summarize the content briefly
* Explain the connection to the novel – characters, setting, events, theme, etc.
* Offer a personal reaction / opinion / insight / reflection
* **Works Cited page must be completed using proper MLA style format**

Your file may include any combination of the following found items:

* Famous Statues
* Articles
* Short Stories or Fables
* Famous Photographs
* Art work
* Song lyrics
* Poems
* Advertisement
* Cartoons or Comic Strips
* Anything else as long as it is PREAPPROVED by the teacher

**Each response should be between half a page to 1 page in lenght**

**SECTION B: PERSUASIVE WRITING**

Identify a significant issue which arises in the novel. *You must connect the issue to the character’s situation in the novel.* Take a position on this issue and, using ***rhetorical techniques*** and reasoned argument; convince your audience of your view. You may select from the following formats:

Choose **ONE** of the following:

* 1. an editorial
  2. a speech to some interested group
  3. an article for an appropriate publication

**Your response should be approximately 1-2 pages long**

**SECTION C: CREATIVE RESPONSE**

*For any one of the following creative responses chosen, a specific connection to novel events* ***must*** *be made.*

Choose **ONE** of the following:

* Recount one significant even from the point of view of a minor character. You could turn this into a descriptive or narrative essay.
* Imagine a scene which could have occurred in the novel. Create this scene, maintaining the narrative point of view of the novel. This could be an extra Chapter either at the beginning or at the end of your novel.
* Write a dramatic monologue for a major character as he / she contemplates a significant event in the story.
* Write yourself into the novel in a dialogue that you might have with the main character as he / she faces a significant situation or problem in the story. Offer advice, comfort or criticism in your role.
* Create a travel brochure / tourist guide for one of the locals in your novel. Include illustration and enough text to entice travelers. You must refer to specific details and events in your novel. For example, a walking tour of Romeo and Juliet’s Verona with reference to Juliet’s balcony, Friar Lawrence’s cell, etc.
* If you have your own creative idea for something you want to create, speak to me and I will approve it if it sounds interesting.

**PART 1 and 2 - ENG3U Independent Novel Study Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| Knowledge  \* deals with topics and themes with limited understanding and depth  \* shows limited understanding of the novel, literary techniques and author studied | \* deals with topics and themes with some understanding and depth  \* shows some understanding of novel, literary techniques and author studied | \* deals with topics and themes with considerable understanding and depth  \* shows considerable understanding of novel, literary techniques and author studied | \* deals with topics and themes with high degree of insight and depth  \* shows thorough and insightful understanding of novel, literary techniques and author studied |
| Thinking  \* critically explores and analyzes topics and experiences with limited effectiveness  \* takes limited risks with content and style | \* critically explores and analyzes topics and experiences with some effectiveness  \* takes some risks with content and style | \* critically explores and analyzes topics and experiences with considerable effectiveness  \* takes considerable risks with content and style | \* critically explores and analyzes topics and experiences with high degree of effectiveness  \* takes highly effective risks with content and style to create desired impact |
| Communication  \* shows limited command of various literary forms  \* selections show limited clarity and ease of reading | \* shows some command of various literary forms  \* selections show some clarity and ease of reading | \* shows considerable command of various literary forms  \* selections show considerable clarity and ease of reading | \* shows extensive command of variety of literary forms (expository, narrative, etc.)  \* selections show a high degree of clarity and ease of reading |
| Application  \* makes connections with limited effectiveness  \* applies grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation with limited accuracy and effectiveness | \* makes connections with some effectiveness  \* applies grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation with some accuracy and effectiveness | \* makes connections with considerable effectiveness  \* applies grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation with considerable accuracy and effectiveness | \* makes connections with high degree of insight and effectiveness (found items, etc.)  \* applies grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation with high degree of accuracy and effectiveness |

**ENG3U Independent Study Novel Book Talk**

Instructions: You will be presenting your portfolio to a small group and share your interest in the novel with them. Each member of the group will peer-mark your presentation using a rubric. In turn, you will peer mark other presentations. Calculate the mark total for your rubrics and staple all of the rubrics together for your group at the end. Each presentation should run *12-15 minutes.* Be *passionate* about your novel. Hopefully, you will inspire other members of your group to read your book as well.

1. Begin your presentation with a reading from your novel that will give your audience a sense of the plot, conflicts, style, themes, setting or characters. Choose an interesting passage that will draw your audience into your presentation and give them an idea what your book is about. The passage should be one or two pages in length, not just a paragraph.
2. Give a synopsis of the novel so that your audience has an idea what it is all about. Do not give the ending away. Simply, tell who the main characters are, what the conflicts are, describe the setting, and explain how the characters respond to the conflicts.
3. Present your five found items and give a summary explaining them, then explain why you included them and how they connect to your novel.
4. Read either your persuasive piece of writing or your creative piece of writing to the group and explain why you wrote it and what you were hoping to accomplish by writing it.
5. Conclude your presentation.

**PART 3 - ENG3U Independent Study Novel**

**Book Talk Rubric**

Name of Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Novel Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Marker: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Poor** | **Satisfactory** | **Very Good** | **Excellent** |
| **Knowledge**  \* overview demonstrates plot, characters, setting  \* reading illustrates message and impact of novel  \* found items reflect understanding of novel  \* creative work reflects understanding of themes and issues |  |  |  |  |
| **Thinking**  \* found items reflect understanding of novel, issues, themes  \* found items and reasons for selection clearly explained  \* creative piece is clear, original, and well explained |  |  |  |  |
| **Communication**  \* speaking is clear and articulate and uses volume and stress to good effect  \* presentation reveals interest in the novel and passion about the issues  \* presenter uses eye contact  \* presentation has a clear introduction and conclusion and shows organization throughout  \* ideas are clear and easy to understand – presenter speaks rather than reads |  |  |  |  |
| **Application**  \* speaker uses correct sentence structure and grammatical expression  \* vocabulary is suitable for a senior academic student  \* layout of portfolio is organized and polished  \* presentation is 12-15 min |  |  |  |  |