

Gifted English I
Summer Reading Assignments
New Albany High School

TEXTS: *And Then There Were None*, by Agatha Christie
 The Odyssey, translated by W.H.D. Rouse

MATERIALS: Two folders with brads (one for each text).
 Loose leaf notebook paper
 Blue or black ink only

FORMATTING: Each assignment folder should be clearly labeled with the student's name and the name of the novel in the center of the folder cover.

Each assignment should have a heading beginning on the first line of the top left-hand corner. The heading should include the student's name, the name of the text (underlined), and the assignment number.

Begin each of the assignments on a new page.

Write in complete sentences.

Neatness and organization do count as part of your grade.

GRADE VALUE: Each of the assignment folders counts as a major grade. They are due the second day of school; your grade will drop a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Also, a test will be given on these books the first week of school.

Students should thoroughly read both of the books, not just one of the many summaries that are widely available.

Students should do their own work on the summer assignments. Copying the work of other students or material that is available on the internet is considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero.

Students may discuss the novels with classmates, but should not work in groups to complete assignments. One purpose of the summer assignments is for the teacher to get a sense of each student's personal voice and writing style.

Students should use their best organizational and writing skills and proofread carefully for grammatical errors. Be sure to follow all instructions.

Assignment for *And Then There Were None*:

1. Write four paragraphs about the author. Discuss the author's childhood and family background, her educational experience, and her life experiences. In the last paragraph, give an example from the novel which reflects any or all of these aspects of the author's life. This will involve research, so you need to cite your source(s). **DO NOT COPY DIRECTLY FROM ANY SOURCE** – summarize in your own words.
2. Select **five** quotes from the novel which show *direct characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization.
Direct characterization – the writer tells the reader what a character is like.

Example: “Walter looked as if he had been raised on fish food: his eyes, as blue as Dill Harris’s, were red-rimmed and watery. There was no color in his face except at the tip of his nose, which was moistly pink. He fingered the straps of his overalls, nervously picking at the metal hooks.” (To Kill a Mockingbird, page 30)

Harper Lee gives a physical description of Walter Cunningham, using specific details to provide the reader with an image of the character's face and his nervous actions.

3. Select **five** quotes from the novel which show *indirect characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization.
Indirect characterization – the reader must put together clues to figure out what characters are like (infer), such as how they look/dress, what they say and the language they use to say it, what other people say about them, and what they do
Inference - a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning

Example: ““Jean Louise, there is no doubt in my mind that they’re good folks. But they’re not our kind of folks,”...said Aunt Alexandra. “The thing is, you can scrub Walter Cunningham till he shines, you can put him in shoes and a new suit, but he’ll never be like Jem.”” (To Kill a Mockingbird, pages 299-300)

The reader can infer from Aunt Alexander's comments that she is judgmental and that she labels people according to their social class.

4. With which character do you most closely identify? What is it about this character that resonates with you? In three separate paragraphs, discuss three character traits that you believe you have in common with the character. How do you reflect or embody these traits?
5. Identify an issue in *And Then There Were None* that you feel is similar to a real-life issue that you have thought about or with which you have had some experience. Write two to three paragraphs to describe the issue and how the novel has clarified, confused, or changed your views on the issue.
6. The theme of a work of literature is the overall message that the author is attempting to convey. This message is often of a moral nature and usually reflects the author's personal beliefs. Write two to three paragraphs to explain what you believe is the theme of the novel. Use specific examples from the novel to support your answer.

Assignments for *The Odyssey*:

7. Write one to two paragraphs about Homer, the original author of *The Odyssey*. Little is certain about his life, but include whatever you can find. Also include information about the time and place in which he lived. This will involve research, so you need to cite your source(s). DO NOT COPY DIRECTLY FROM ANY SOURCE – summarize in your own words.
8. Select five quotes from the novel which show *direct characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization. (See example above)
9. Select five quotes from the novel which show *indirect characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization. (See example above)
10. With which character do you most closely identify? What is it about this character that resonates with you? In three separate paragraphs, discuss three character traits that you believe you have in common with the character. How do you reflect or embody these traits?
11. Identify an issue in *The Odyssey* that you feel is similar to a real-life issue that you have thought about or with which you have had some experience. Write two to three paragraphs to describe the issue and how the novel has clarified, confused, or changed your views on the issue.
12. The theme of a work of literature is the overall message that the author is attempting to convey. This message is often of a moral nature and usually reflects the author's personal beliefs. Write two to three paragraphs to explain what you believe is the theme of the novel. Use specific examples from the novel to support your answer.