

## Pre-Term Reading and Writing English Honors 2

Mr. Russell

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Over the summer you will read *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Both books must be read during the summer. For **each** book, you will do a total of **6** journals. The journals are a combination of summary, thematic analysis, and literary technique analysis of a chapter of your choice. *The Joy Luck Club* has 16 interlocking short stories that act as chapters and *To Kill a Mockingbird* has 31 chapters. I recommend that you get the books and start now so that the workload does not become overwhelming.

### Journal Instructions:

Each journal will be about a **single chapter (or single short story for *Joy Luck Club*)** of your choice and will be broken into 3 separate components:

1. **Chapter Summary.** Make sure the entirety of the chapter is properly summarized. Be sure to account for all major events. Remember, summaries are **brief** and **straightforward** recounts of plot events, not analytical or evaluative.
2. **Theme analysis.** There are numerous theme topics throughout *The Joy Luck Club* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

For *The Joy Luck Club*, the most prominent are:

- **Familial Bonds, Immigrant Identity, Coming of Age, Visions of America, Language and Communication, Individual Identity, Women and Femininity, Hopes and Aspirations**

For *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the most prominent are:

- **Prejudice, Social Inequality, Racism, Importance of Moral Education, Innocence, Coming of Age, Understanding Other People's Perspective, Bravery, Past vs. Present, Compassion**

Pick one of these theme topics, quote a passage from your chapter, and explain in a thorough paragraph how the passage relates to and encapsulates the theme. The quoted passage can either be part of the narration or the dialogue; be sure to include the page number in parentheses. Some questions to consider when writing your paragraph: How does the passage fit into the specific nuances of the theme topic, the thematic context of the novel, the development of a particular character, and/or the author's overall purpose? Then, **do it again for another passage in the same chapter** and with a different theme topic.

3. **Literary Technique Analysis:** Both authors use various literary techniques to give their writing vibrancy and verisimilitude. Pick any device listed and explain in a thorough paragraph the mechanics of the device in context of the passage as well as how it works within the story's development.
  - **imagery, symbolism, metaphor, personification, simile, allusion, tone, irony, point of view, foreshadowing, dialect, foil, motif**

I recommend you look up these terms in order to familiarize yourself with them.

### Journal Specs:

- Single-Spaced (however, I do expect a space between each journal as well as a space between each journal component.
- Times New Roman
- Name, Teacher, Class, Date (on the left-hand side)
- 12 size font
- Write it on a Word document

### Turnitin.com Requirements:

You will **not** submit a hardcopy of the journals or send them to my email. Instead, you will submit them to turnitin.com to **English Honors 2** and I will grade them from the website.

- class ID: **18058308**
- class key: **Russell (be sure to capitalize the “R”)**

Turnitin.com Directions:

- website: [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
- enter your e-mail and password
- enter the class ID (18058308)
- enter “Russell” as the class key
- select your class (English Honors 2)
- hit “submit”
- create a title for your essay
- find your file on your USB or hard drive and upload
- hit “upload”
- a digital receipt will be sent to your email

Your *The Joy Luck Club* journals are due **no later than Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm** and your *To Kill a Mockingbird* journals are due **no later than Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm**. I expect the journals to cover a wide range of chapters. I **strongly** recommend that you enroll **now** to turnitin.com and put these dates in your phone as a reminder. If you know that you will be on vacation during this time and will not have access to WiFi, then you **must plan ahead** and do the assignments early. Also, keep in mind that turnitin.com is set to the **Pacific Time Zone** and **will not** adjust if you are on vacation and log on from a different time zone (you must stick to the Pacific Time Zone).

### **VERY, VERY URGENT!**

If **both** journals are **NOT** submitted to the website, each journal will receive a 0 grade and **you may be dropped** from the class. The same rule applies if any of the work submitted is found to be plagiarized. If only 1 set of journals is submitted, it will be up to the teacher’s discretion on whether you will be able to stay in the class (dependent on the number of students enrolled). If you are allowed to stay under any of these circumstances, you will start the class with a **major** grade deficit.

### **Final Literary Analysis Paper:**

You will use one of the major works we read as summer reading or *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (which we will read in class), for a literary analysis paper that will be due near the end of the class term. Each major work is considered an anchor piece that will be the basis for your paper. You will choose an anchor book and read **3** books as outside reading throughout the majority of the term. Here are the choices.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* (Anchor/Summer Reading)

- *Night* by Elie Weisel
- *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright

*The Joy Luck Club* (Anchor/Summer Reading)

- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (\*WARNING: mature subject matter)
- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (\*WARNING: mature subject matter)

*Lord of the Flies* (Anchor/In-Class)

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey (\*WARNING: mature subject matter)
- *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood (\*WARNING: mature subject matter)

Although you can read any of these books early, your first book is officially due 5-6 weeks into the term, the second will be due 5-6 weeks later, and the last one will be due 5-6 weeks after that. Each book will require an outside reading assignment that I will give instructions for at the beginning of class.

John Doe  
Mr. Russell  
English Honors 1  
X Month 20XX

### *Of Mice and Men* Journal (Sample)

#### **Journal 1: Chapter 4**

Alone in his room, Crooks settles in for the night when Lennie appears. A conversation ensues and Lennie reveals the secret about the farm, which Crooks disbelieves. Later, Candy arrives and describes their future farm. Crooks asks to join their venture and says that he would work very hard for no pay. Curley's wife appears, claiming that she is looking for Curley and complaining that she just wants to talk to someone. Candy and Crooks tell her to leave because they fear she will get them fired. Angered, Curley's wife threatens Crooks with lynching. When Candy says that he and Lennie would tell on her for framing Crooks, she counters by saying that no one will listen to lowly ranch hands. Curley's wife then tells Lennie her happiness that he busted up Curley's hand, and then leaves. George appears, and Candy admits that he told Crooks about the farm. The defeated Crooks tells Candy to forget his offer to help.

#### **Loneliness/Isolation**

**“I seen things out here. I wasn't drunk. I don't know if I was asleep. If some guy was with me, he could tell me I was asleep, an' then it would be all right. But I jus' don't know” (71).**

As a black man with a physical handicap, Crooks lives on the periphery of the ranch life. He is not even allowed to enter the white men's bunkhouse, or join them in a game of cards. Crooks' resentment typically comes out through his bitter, caustic wit, but in this passage he displays a sad, touching vulnerability. Crooks' desire for a friend by whom to “measure” things echoes George's earlier description of the life of a migrant worker. Because these men feel such loneliness, the promise of a farm of their own and a life filled with strong, brotherly bonds holds an incredible allure.

#### **Dreams/Aspirations**

**“An' never a God damn one of 'em ever gets it. Just like heaven. Ever'body wants a little piece of lan'. I read plenty of books out here. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land” (74).**

Crooks injects the scene with a sense of reality, reminding the reader that the dream of a farm is, after all, only a dream. This moment establishes Crooks' character, showing how a lifetime of loneliness and oppression can manifest as cruelty. It also furthers Steinbeck's disturbing observation that those who have strength and power in the world are not the only ones responsible for oppression. As Crooks shows, even the oppressed seek out and attack those who are even weaker than they.

#### **Imagery**

**“There were battered magazines and a few dirty books on a special shelf over his bunk. A pair of large gold-rimmed spectacles hung from a nail on the wall...” (67).**

Steinbeck uses visual imagery to show how Crooks' personal belongings signify his permanent residence. Much of the room contains the specific accouterments of his job, but scattered about on the floor are his well-used personal possessions (like the “battered” magazine), accumulated because, unlike the other workers, he stays in this job. Likewise, his “gold-rimmed” spectacles also exemplify his isolation from the others (reading, after all, is a solitary experience). Overall, the personal items of the room represents Crooks' pride and self-respect that he uses as a barrier towards others.