

Summer Assignment 2017

AP English 3

200 points

Reading Assignment #1:

Walden by Henry David Thoreau

Walden is considered by many to be one of the great masterpieces of American literature. This non-fiction account of Thoreau's life in the woods has influenced many 20th Century writers in both content and style. Take note of what changes Thoreau suggests for living a reflective life. Rich in philosophical content with the sting of social commentary, Thoreau challenges the individual to understand himself/herself.

1. Complete a quote log on *Walden*.

Walden deals with many different themes conveyed through symbolism, allusions and characterization.

Choose **three** symbols, or Classical allusions from the list below and connect them to one of the major theme tags. You do not have to choose the same theme for your symbol/allusion.

Quote 4-6 excerpts from *Walden*. Then write meaningful commentary that links the symbolism, or allusion to a theme. For each one you should ultimately have two pages of quotes chosen from different chapters.

Your commentary should discuss the significance of the topic and the author's attitude toward the subject. Develop the theme tag into a developed thematic assertion by answering the question, what is Thoreau saying about _____(theme tag).

What questions does Thoreau raise? What is a modern application to his concepts?

Please include page numbers, and remember, commentary should be insightful analysis not the reiteration of facts.

(Quotes without page numbers will not be graded. Please do not use a text search.)

Symbols/Allusions (choose 3)

- railroad
- loon
- pond(s)
- bean field
- circles/cycles
- Classical allusions (references to Greek and Roman people, myths or events)

Theme Tags

- materialism
- spiritual journey
- self-reliance
- independent thinking
- intellectualism
- progress and civilization
- self-reformation
- ethical living

2. Experiment in Living Assignment

Design a scaled down version of Thoreau's personal experiment in living. Think about what you would be able to live without for **five** days: TV? Internet? cell phone? microwave? car? During the experiment, write at least two pages a day about what you learn. Reflect on both doing without and discovering new things about yourself. Please date your entries. When you have completed the reading of *Walden*, the quote log and the experiment, write an additional two pages summarizing your final thoughts. Have your parents sign off on it. They may do this on the first page of your journal.

Total pages: 12 (2 pages/day + 2 page summary)

3. Do an illustration of Walden Pond. Give your illustration an insightful title.

Reading Assignment #2

The Control of Nature by John McPhee

The Control of Nature is a work of non-fiction which is divided into three sections which focus on the natural forces of rivers, lava flows and debris flows.

1. As you read, put post-it notes on key passages that relate to McPhee's thesis. Then choose 3-4 from which to write a quote log (3-4 quotes / section) for each passage which included insightful commentary.

Section 1 = 2-3 quotes (with page numbers) + commentary

Section 2 = 2-3 quotes (with page numbers) + commentary

Section 3 = 2-3 quotes (with page numbers) + commentary

TOTAL 6-9 quotes + commentary

Length should be 4 - 6 pages

All work should be word processed and is due on the first day of class.