

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Mass Market Paperback

Pub: Grand Central Publishing

Cost: (about) \$8

Dear Student,

Welcome to Summer Reading 2011! We have chosen a modern classic which turned fifty just last year. Some of you will have read this novel, but our sense is that most Middle Schools do not have it on their syllabus. It is a novel which (in our opinion) every American should read.

Everyone does assignment one. You need to have this ready to hand in to your English teacher the first lesson. If possible, you should use a word processor. There are three other assignments. You need to make notes on these and bring them to the first lesson because we will be doing some group work on them. Which one you do depends on the color of the paper you are looking at: **green = assignment two; orange = assignment three; yellow = assignment four.**

Assignment one:

The novel is narrated by Scout who is the daughter of Atticus Finch, a respected lawyer in the town of Maycomb. The narrative is told from the perspective of the adult Scout looking back on her childhood. It is clear from the narrative that the adult Scout loves and respects Atticus as a father, a lawyer and a man. It does not necessarily follow, however, that the author, Harper Lee, shares her narrator's attitude to Atticus Finch.

Make a list of up to ten of judgments and actions which Atticus Finch makes during the course of the novel and evaluate the consequences which follow from them. You should present your results in three columns: Judgments and Actions (which should be in the form of direct quotation from the novel), Consequences Described in the Novel, and Reader's Evaluation.

Having made your list, write a short conclusion to explain why (in your opinion) the reader does, or does not, share Scout's attitude to her father.

Assignment two:

This novel is both one of the most beloved and one of the most banned novels in American Literature. Research the various arguments that have been used by those who have sought to remove the novel from school syllabuses and from public libraries. How convincing do you find the case for banning this book?

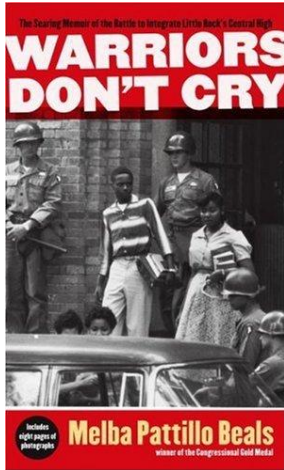
Assignment three:

It is unusual for a writer to produce one huge best-selling novel and then never write another novel. Research the reasons which have been suggested to explain Harper Lee's literary silence following the publication of this novel. Having reviewed the evidence, what explanation do you come to? Do you think that Lee made the right decision?

Assignment Four:

One of the primary influences on Harper Lee's writing of *To Kill a Mockingbird* was one of the most famous court cases in American history, the "Scottsboro Trial." Research the facts of this trial and note specific similarities to the court case of Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Having studied the history, explain in a paragraph why the "Scottsboro Trial" clearly had such an impact on Harper Lee.

English II Pre-IB: Summer Reading, 2011



Warriors Don't Cry **by Melba Pattillo Beals**

Published by Simon Pulse in an
Abridged Young Readers Edition

ISBN 978-1-4169-4882-7
Cost \$6.99

**This is called the mass market
paperback. Do not buy the longer
version which sells for over \$10.**

How to answer the questions:

1. It is for you to judge the appropriate length of each answer. ***With one exception, none*** of the questions can be answered in one sentence, but ***none*** requires more than a ***substantial paragraph***. The key is to ***answer each question fully***.
2. Always express yourself in complete and grammatically correct sentences.
3. Where you can, support your response by detailed reference to the text including quotations. Remember to cite all quotations using the MLA format:
(Beals [number of page]), for example (Beals 21).
4. Your paper may be handwritten or printed. If it is printed use Times New Roman, font size 12 and double-space your lines. If it is handwritten, please also double-space your writing.

Chapter One

1. The writer states, 'the humiliating expectations and traditions of segregation creep over you, slowly stealing a teaspoon of your self-esteem each day' (Beals 3). Explain what she means by this **metaphor**.

Chapter Two

2. When asked by her teacher if anyone wants to attend a white school, Melba raises her hand. Explain her reasons for doing so.

Chapter Three

3. Melba writes that, 'We integrating students shared many things in common' (Beals 26). Explain in your own words the things the Little Rock Nine had in common.

Chapter Four

4. Explain the arrangements for the students to meet up on the first day of school and how it happens that Elizabeth Eckford is isolated so that she becomes the focus of hatred for the white segregationist protesters.

Chapter Five

5. Explain just why it is so important to Melba to go to the wrestling with her grandmother.

Chapter Six

6. Explain briefly why the governor's attorneys walk out of the court.

Chapter Seven

7. What evidence did you find that the school authorities at Central High are not fully committed to supporting the nine black pupils and are insensitive to their situation?

Chapter Eight

8. Melba tells us, ‘... there was an assembly at Central with the military briefing the students’ (Beals 93). What do you imagine that the person in charge of the soldiers says to the white students at Central? Make a bullet-pointed list of points you would have made.

Chapter Nine

9. Danny is very limited in what he can do to protect Melba. Make a bullet-pointed list of the things he tells her that he is not allowed to do.

Chapter Ten

10. Why are the protests against the black students getting worse at this point and the examples of white students being helpful and supportive getting rarer?

Chapter Eleven

11. Explain Minniejean’s desire to sing on stage at Central High? Why does this desire of Minniejean’s worry the other eight students? How do the School authorities make sure that she would not get the chance to sing?

Chapter Twelve

12. Why is Melba’s sixteenth birthday party so disappointing?

Chapter Thirteen

13. What piece of unwelcome information does Melba hear about her father? [You probably could answer this in a sentence or two.]

Chapter Fourteen

14. ‘Little Rock’s finest police officers and members of the federal National Guard stood by, watching...’ (Beals 165-6). The writer’s use of the word ‘finest’ is an example of **verbal irony**. Explain what irony is and how it is used here

Chapter Fifteen

15. In what ways does Link protect Melba in this chapter?

Chapter Sixteen

16. Describe Link’s complex motivation for the way he acts.

Chapter Seventeen

17. How are Link’s feelings about Nana different from those of his father?

Chapter Eighteen

18. Melba writes that Ernie’s diploma ‘cost us our innocence’ (Beals 216). Explain what she means.

Materials and equipment you will need for this class from day one:

- a memory stick on which to keep all of your computer work;
- a substantial three-ring binder for your notes, essays and handouts with label dividers for each of the following: fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and handouts;
- a composition book to be used as a Learning Journal [no spiral-bound, ‘1 Subject’ books please!];
- a selection of highlighters and/or colored pens;
- a blue or black pen for all final copies of writing assignments (final copies may be word processed if you prefer);
- an adequate supply of writing and printing paper that has three holes punched for filing.

Have a wonderful summer! I hope that you find the book I have chosen as moving and as thought-provoking as I did.

I look forward to the pleasure of meeting you in August.

Mr. R. A. Moore

I.B. English III – Mrs. Hensel

IB English III is divided into two parts: School's Free Choice and Detailed Study. Both parts culminate in an oral that is internally assessed that counts 30% of your Language A1 grade. We will begin the year with School's Free Choice.

Summer Reading: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. The ISBN number is 9781594483851. Your work will be due the first day of class. Below is the written assignment. Please complete in composition books.

1. **Setting:** The time during which the action takes place and a brief description of the place(s) the action takes place. There is more than one setting in the book. Please use the three major places.
2. **Main characters:** Give a brief description (3-4 sentences) of at least five of the main characters. For each one, include a line of narration or a quote from the story that you think "shows" that character well. Highlight the quote. Make sure you put the page number at the end of the quote (5).
3. **Imagery:** If imagery in literature is what you see even after you've finished reading, what images are left with you after this book? What frozen moments are still in your mind? Describe two of the images you remember. They do not have to be the obvious ones; they simply need to have been important to you. Explain what is happening in each moment and why each might be important to the story. Include a quote for each and highlight it.
4. **Symbolism:** Events, people, paintings, dreams: the list of things that pass as symbols in literature is lengthy. Find at least three symbols. First explain what the symbol actually is and what it symbolizes. Also, explain its context as far as where in the story it occurs.
5. **Respond:** The phrase "a thousand splendid suns," from the poem by Saib-e-Tabrizi, is quoted twice in the novel – once as Laila's family prepares to leave Kabul, and again when she decides to return there from Pakistan. It is also echoed in one of the final lines: "Miriam is in Laila's own heart, where she shines with the bursting radiance of a thousand suns." Discuss the thematic significance of this statement.

IB English IV
Summer Reading Assignment

Assignment: Read DEMIAN by Herman Hesse. The preferred edition, for discussion and reference purposes, is the Harper Collins Edition with the ISBN# 0-06-093191-4.

The simply stated theme of most of the literature we read in English IV is the individual's search for understanding. In some cases, the society will play the role of antagonist. In DEMIAN, however, the search is less complicated by external forces than internal ones.

We will read other novels, specifically Orwell's 1984 and O'Conner's WISE BLOOD, but they will be read in the spring. They will be used on your exams papers. DEMIAN, though, will be used for one of your World Literature papers. As a result, it needs to read and discussed early.

First, complete a book brief for the novel. The directions are attached. This book brief is due on the first day of class. Secondly, there will be an essay or commentary on the novel on the second or third day of class.

I am looking forward to your senior year. If you need help with anything, feel free to call or email me.

Have a great summer.

Mr. Carstenn

todd.carstenn@marion.k12.fl.us

I.B. English 4 Book Brief (Summer reading)

1. Title and author
2. Setting: The time during which the action takes place and a brief description of the place(s) the action takes place.
3. Main characters: Give a brief description (3-4 sentences) of at least four of the main characters. For each one, include a line of narration or a quote from the story that you think “shows” that character well. Highlight the quote.
4. Plot summary: Tell me the story in your own words in approximately 500 words.
5. Conflicts: DEMIAN is Emil Sinclair’s story. Detail at least three of his conflicts. You may, if you wish, use the three basic kinds of conflicts: “man versus man,” “man versus self,” and “man versus society.” For each of the conflicts, find a quote by the character or the narration to help explain it. Highlight each quote.
6. Theme statement: State the author’s message in a sentence and briefly explain it in a short paragraph.
7. Imagery: If imagery in literature is what you see even after you’ve finished reading, what images are you left with you after this book? What frozen moments are still in your mind? Describe two of the images you remember. They do not have to be obvious ones; they simply need to have been important to you. Explain what is happening in each moment and why each might be important to the story. Include a quote from the story for each and highlight it.
8. Vocabulary: Write 20 new words and their definitions.
9. Symbolisms: Events, people, paintings, dreams: the list of things that pass as symbols in literature in lengthy. Find at least three symbols in DEMIAN. First explain what the symbol actually is and what it symbolizes. Also, explain its context as far as where in the story it occurs.
10. Observations: Here is a chance for you to talk about the book less formally. Talk about something you didn’t get a chance to talk about during the book brief or go into more detail about something you did mention earlier. The tendency in this section is to tell me that you liked or didn’t like the book. I have no problem with that, but the entire purpose of this section is to have you talk intelligently about the book. This book presents us with an interesting and possibly disturbing philosophy; there will things to talk about - I promise. No matter what you do, I want it detailed and specific. Generalities do not help us at all.