



**American Literature Honors / Mainstream (Grade 11)  
Summer Reading Assignment 2018  
Mrs. Ingolia**

You are required to read the novels *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury before September. Your independent work on these literary texts and subsequent in-class discussions and assessments will constitute the first major grade for the marking period. Both written assignments will be due on the first day of class.

**Written Assignments**

**Essay**

Choose **one** of the following prompts for the novel *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline and compose a well-written essay in MLA format. Be sure to include a debatable thesis statement, at least two to three body paragraphs, introduced by sophisticated transitions and clear topic sentences, and a conclusion. Be sure to write in 3<sup>rd</sup> person, present tense and to carefully integrate your quotes as evidence to your arguments. Essays composed of two body paragraphs should contain at least three quotes per paragraph from the text, and those with three body paragraphs should have at least two per paragraph. Also be sure to expand upon your quotes/evidence before transitioning to the next argument. I will be looking for insightful arguments supported by directly correlated evidence to back up your thesis.

1. One of the themes of the novel is the role of community. Vivian reflects, "In Kinvara, poor as we were, and unstable, we at least had family nearby, people who knew us. We shared traditions and a way of looking at the world. We didn't know until we left how much we took those things for granted." Examine the impact that the loss of community plays in the novel. How do Molly and Vivian create their own communities?
2. Much of the story of *Orphan Train* deals with the theme of identity. Discuss how identity is developed in the book. Consider how the characters view their own identities versus how others label or stereotype them. How do the characters lose and/or maintain parts of their identity? How do these reconstructed identities impact the way characters are treated?

## Dialectical Journal

The **Dialectical Journal** for *Fahrenheit 451* must be typed in a two-column table and include at least **twelve entries** which span the entire text. Follow MLA format - double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point black font. You should have at least 2-3 typed pages for this assignment.

### Procedure:

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you, and record them word-for-word in the left-hand column of a T-chart. Always record the page number(s) after the quote.
- In the right hand column, write your response to the text (insights, questions, reflections, and comments to the passage)
- Label your responses using the following codes:
  - (Q) Question - ask about something that is unclear to you
  - (C) Connect - make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
  - (P) Predict - anticipate what will occur based on information in the passage
  - (CL) Clarify - answer an earlier question of confirm/disaffirm a prediction
  - (R) Reflect - think about what the message signifies in terms of human nature, social justice, and the world, in general. Are there any racial, cultural, gender, or socioeconomic factors at play in the literary work?
  - (E) Evaluate - make a judgment about the characters, their actions and choices, or the author's message

### Responding to the Text:

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. You can respond to the text in a variety of ways as long as your observations are **specific and detailed**. You must use each of the codes listed above at least **twice**. Responses may include:

- 1) an analysis based on the use of literary device (allusion, foreshadowing, metaphors, hyperbole etc.) or persuasive techniques (connotation, irony, satire etc.)
- 2) an analysis of a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole
- 3) a connection established between different characters or events in the text
- 4) a connection made to another text, film, or song
- 5) a recognition of a pattern: recurring images, ideas, colors, motifs
- 6) a recognition of a narrative shift or turn in the plot
- 7) a clarification of confusing vocabulary, terms, references

### Sample Dialectical Journal entry: THE THINGS THEY CARRIED by Tim O'Brien

| Passages from the text   | Pg#s | Comments & Questions   |
|--|------|--|
| "-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there | Pg 2 | (R) O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved |

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| <p>was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”.</p> | <p>ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.</p> |
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**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism from another source (i.e. Spark Notes) or another student's ideas will not be tolerated. Please do not be afraid to take risks and explore your own ideas and impressions.

Have fun reading and have a great summer!