

Junior Composition and Literature Summer Reading 2022-2023

Students enrolled in Junior Composition and Literature for the 2022-2023 school year must complete the following summer assignment. Your work is due the FIRST FRIDAY after school begins. Please type this assignment. 20 points

Step 1

Consider the phrase “reading as a writer”. Our textbook for this year begins by stating, “As with any practical art, we learn to write by writing. Many of the fundamental patterns and strategies of writing that we all must master if we’re to construct tightly woven texts of our own, we learn in part from reading the work of other writers. Thus we’ll be reading the essays in this book *as writers*, with an eye for what we can learn from them about writing. Coolly and systematically (but maybe with a little passion, we’ll pay close attention to how the pieces fit together—how we can use those same techniques in our own work” (Cooley, Thomas 1).

Step 2:

Read the following poem “I Love the Look of Words” by Maya Angelou with the purpose of observing author’s craft:

“I Love the Look of Words”

Popcorn leaps, popping from the floor
of a hot black skillet
and into my mouth.
Black words leap,
snapping from the white
page. Rushing into my eyes. Sliding
into my brain which gobbles them
the way my tongue and teeth
chomp the buttered popcorn.
When I have stopped reading,
ideas from the words stay stuck
in my mind, like the sweet
smell of butter perfuming my
fingers long after the popcorn
is finished.
I love the book and the look of words
the weight of ideas that popped into my mind
I love the tracks
of new thinking in my mind.

by Maya Angelou

Step 3:

Write a 250-500 word essay detailing and analyzing Maya Angelou's writing techniques in this poem. What did you learn from this poet about word choice? Imagery? Sound techniques? etc.

Step 4:

Once you draft your essay, let your writing sit for 2-3 days. Return to your writing, revise, edit...weed the garden. Good writers have several drafts, before their writing blooms. First drafts don't attest to your writing ability.

Step 6

You will submit your essay digitally on Google Classroom. Instructions for submission will be given out the first day of school. ALL essays are due by the FIRST FRIDAY of school.

Grading Rubric:

General Information

1 pt

Student misses several elements or makes identifications with no support from poem
Emerging

2 pts

Student misses some elements or makes incorrect identification
Proficient

3 pts

Student identifies subject of poem, speaker, plot, and type of poem.
Advanced

4 pts

Student is able to identify, with accuracy and in detail, subject of poem, noting identity of speaker, conflict, plot; type of poem, based on evidence

Annotation

1 pt

Notes on poem name few techniques or identify inaccurately; interpretation not attempted
Emerging

2 pts

Notes on poem name some techniques; some identifies inaccurately, or not named, or lack accurate interpretation
Proficient

3 pts

Notes on poem name majority of techniques to create a dominant image.

Advanced

4 pts

Notes on poem are comprehensive, accurately and by name identify sound techniques, comparisons, imagery, rhythm- attention /interpretation given to significant elements

Synthesis

1 pt

Few examples used or examples do not support point; interpretation not supported by poem

Emerging

2 pts

Written description incorporates some examples; may miss elements of poem or lack accurate insight

Proficient

3 pts

Written description of poem incorporates examples, gives overview of poem, some insight

Advanced

4 pts

Written description of poem accurately and with detail interprets use of techniques to create a dominant image

Interpretation

1 pt

No interpretation given, or interpretation is so vague as to have no connection

Emerging

2 pts

Student gives some insight into the poem, but interpretation is lacking

Proficient

3 pts

Student interprets use of techniques to create a dominant image

Advanced

4 pts

Student accurately and with detail interprets use of techniques to create a dominant image

Presentation

1 pt

Little attention paid to conventions, directions No evidence of transition use Errors in spelling, grammar impede reading of text Not typed

Emerging

2 pts

Most directions, conventions followed Transitions occasionally used Punctuation conventions not always followed
Errors in spelling, grammar Not typed

Proficient

3 pts

All directions followed Most conventions followed Some transitions used Quotes correctly punctuated (MLA)
Conventions of spelling/grammar followed Typed

Advanced

4 pts

All directions followed All conventions regarding written analysis of literature followed Ideas connected with use of
transitions, interpreted Quotes correctly punctuated (MLA) Conventions of spelling and grammar followed, Typed