

ELA III, Honors

*Read both the fiction and nonfiction books

Nonfiction

The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson– Summer Assignment

As you read, write a response for each question. Do not focus on making sure that you include every detail. Instead focus on the quality of your explanation and/or analysis. You must use page numbers in the responses.

1. Identify and explain three challenges that Daniel Burnham had in creating the World's Fair. Why were these challenges?
2. The book is subtitled: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America. Identify and explain three ways in which the Chicago World's Fair changed America? I am not looking simply for a list of new inventions but for the overall reach of the Fair.
3. Identify two different instances in the book where H. H. Holmes used his powers of persuasion to his favor - one with a man and one with a woman. Compare and contrast the two scenes.
4. Explain why the two greatest triumphs at the fair - the Ferris Wheel and Buffalo Bill's Wild West show - can also be categorized as failures.
5. Why did the fair organizers not hold the planned closing ceremony for the Fair? What happened instead?
6. Detective Frank Geyer was charged with finding the Pitezel children after Holmes was arrested for insurance fraud in the death of Benjamin Pitezel. Explain the circumstances around Pitezel's death and Holmes's involvement in it.
7. How does the execution of H. H. Holmes reinforce Detective Geyer's analysis of him?
8. Summarize how and where Detective Geyer found the three Pitezel children.
9. The following characters are identified in the Recessional at the book's end. Choose two people listed below and explain who they are and their significance in this book. a. Frederick Olmsted b. George Washington Gale Ferris c. Sol Bloom d. Patrick Eugene Joseph Prendergast
10. What is significant about both the beginning and ending chapters being set on the Olympics?

Fiction

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Part I.

Please choose your favorite symbol in *The Catcher in the Rye* and write one well-developed paragraph explaining how the meaning behind this symbol changes as Holden Caulfield changes from the beginning to the end of the novel. (suggested symbols: horses and the carousel, ducks and the duck pond, the red hunting cap, the Natural History museum, Hollywood and the movies, the adult world).

Part II.

Choose a favorite song that reflects the mood, tone, or emotion expressed by Holden Caulfield at a particular point in his struggle to make sense of the world. Please do the following: (2 paragraphs) 1. Print the lyrics (at least those that pertain to your subject). 2. Write one paragraph interpreting the theme of your song. 3. Write a second paragraph explaining how the theme, mood, or symbolism in the song reflects Holden's theme, mood, or tone in that scene or passage. Use evidence from the text *The Catcher in the Rye* to support your claims.

Part III.

We all have our Holden Caulfield "moments." Put yourself in Holden's shoes and write a one-page diary entry in J.D. Salinger's narrative style about a day in your life. (Just as Holden does, you are struggling to get along with difficult peers, adults, rules and regulations, the hypocrisy or "phoniness" of institutions (school, work, clubs and extra-curricular activities, and whatever else you find puzzling, frustrating, annoying, disheartening about your yourself and others during that hour or that day). Remember, Holden is also touched by rare, unexpected moments of gratitude and compassion even as he struggles. Write your diary entry in the first person. You might start like this, "It's the first day of school and the fourth teacher who is telling us everything we are supposed to remember for the rest of the year to do for that class..."