

**COLLEGE-PREP IV: Complete only Assignment A**

**HONORS ENGLISH IV: Complete Assignment A and B**

**AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION: Complete Assignment A and C**

**ASSIGNMENT A:**

Read *The Things They Carried* by Tom O'Brien and provide a literary response to the following questions. Each response should be recorded as a well developed paragraph, with an introductory sentence, a specific reference to the text, and your own explanation or commentary. Focus on the *quality* of your explanation and/or analysis. These answers should be typed because you will upload them to Google Classroom on the first day of class.

1. Tom O'Brien presented a speech, where he said, "War stories aren't always about war, per se. They aren't about bombs and bullets and military maneuvers. They aren't about tactics, they aren't about foxholes and canteens. A war story, like any good story, is finally about the human heart. About the choices we make, or fail to make...And a good war story, in my opinion, is a story that strikes you as important, not for war content, but for its heart content." How could you relate this quote to the first chapter of *The Things They Carried*?
2. Were you surprised when the point of view switched to 3rd person in Chapter Two, and discovered that the narrator is the author? What effect does this have on the story and the way it is told?
3. What do you think is so powerful about the character named Elroy that O'Brien would call him the "hero of [his] life"?
4. What commentary is O'Brien making about human nature and the differences (or lack thereof) between men and women in Chapter Nine?
5. How is the discussion of "blame" in Chapter Seventeen a powerful illustration of some tendencies of human nature during times of tragedy? What does it reveal?

**ASSIGNMENT B: Read *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl and provide a literary response to the following questions. Each response should be recorded as a well developed paragraph, with an introductory sentence, a specific reference to the text, and your own explanation or commentary. Focus on the *quality* of your explanation and/or analysis. These answers should be typed because you will upload them to Google Classroom on the first day of class.**

1: In many of his anecdotes, Frankl describes situations where people who were treated badly began behaving badly in response. Do you believe that a person's behavior always reflects the way they are treated? Why or why not? Explain.

2. "Man can preserve a vestige of spiritual freedom, of independence of mind, even in such terrible conditions of psychic and physical stress." Do you agree with Frankl? Why or why not?

3. Frankl quotes Nietzsche, "He who has a *why* to live for can bear with almost any *how*." Do you agree? Why or why not?

4. What is your opinion of Frankl's claim that we can find our life's meaning through our life's suffering?

5. A 1991 survey by the Library of Congress found that *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl was one of the top ten most influential books in America. Do you believe this book deserves such acclaim? Has it changed you in any way?

## **ASSIGNMENT C:**

Read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini and provide a literary response to the following questions. Each response should be recorded as a well developed paragraph, with an introductory sentence, a specific reference to the text, and your own explanation or commentary. Focus on the *quality* of your explanation and/or analysis. These answers should be typed because you will upload them to Google Classroom on the first day of class.

1. **CHARACTER:** Choose a Character from the story. Identify and describe three specific textual details from the novel that reveals a character's perspective or motives.
2. **SETTING:** What is the setting of the story? Identify and describe specific textual details that convey or reveal the setting.
3. **SETTING:** Explain how the setting, and the details associated with it, not only depict a time and place, but also convey values associated with that setting.
4. **STRUCTURE:** Explain how the dramatic situation of a narrative involves the rising or falling fortunes of a main character or set of characters.
5. **STRUCTURE:** Explain how the plot focuses the readers' attention on the parts of the narrative that matter most to its development, including the relationships between characters as well as the relationship between characters and setting.
6. **NARRATOR:** Identify and describe the narrator or speaker of the text.
7. **NARRATOR:** Explain how the narrator establishes a relationship between the text and the reader.