

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Complete Assignment A and B

ASSIGNMENT A:

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, at least two supportive sentences, followed by your own explanation or commentary. Focus on the *quality* of your explanation and/or analysis. **Your 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 this character's perspective or motives.
2. **SETTING:** What is the setting (time and place) 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 the narrative reveals the rising or falling fortunes of the main character.
5. **STRUCTURE:** Explain how the plot focuses the reader's 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.

ASSIGNMENT B:

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, at least two supportive sentences, and your own explanation or commentary. Focus on the *quality* of your explanation and/or analysis. **Your 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." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer.
2. Were you surprised when the point of view switched to 3rd person in Chapter Two, and discovered that the narrator is the author? Explain the effect this has on the story and the way it is told.
3. What do you think is so powerful about the character Elroy that O'Brien would call him the "hero of [his] life"? Explain.
4. What commentary is O'Brien making about human nature and the differences (or lack thereof) between men and women in Chapter Nine? Explain.
5. How is the discussion of "blame" in Chapter Seventeen a powerful illustration of some tendencies of human nature during times of tragedy?