

FLVS AP® English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignments

You will need to obtain a copy of *The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad from a local library or bookstore.

Read over the assignments below and then begin reading the novel.

I. As you read the novel, complete the Major Works Data Sheet as well as the theme and motif guide.

II. Examine the following literary terms. Put an asterisk by the terms you know extremely well. Put a check by the terms with which you are familiar, but may not know well. Circle the terms that are new to you.

Record in your notebook the terms that you do not know well and the ones that are new to you. Find the definitions of these terms. You may use <http://dictionary.reference.com/> to help you locate the definitions of these terms. You will take a quiz in the first module of the course to test your knowledge of these terms.

Allegory	Setting	Point of View
Protagonist	Irony	Analogy
Diction	Alliteration	Antagonist
Personification	Connotation	Stereotype
Syntax	Tone	Characterization
Denotation	Symbol	Hyperbole
Mood	Metaphor	Foreshadowing
Narrator	Imagery	Flashback
Simile		

III. Allusions

An allusion is a reference, explicit or implicit to something in previous literature or history. This is an important literary term. With an allusion, an author can engage the reader in making associations. If the reader does not know the allusion, though, the reader misses some of the author's meaning. Knowing allusions is a key to understanding literature. To prepare you for understanding literature, we have the following allusions for you to research.

Know the following allusions well. You may read whatever sources you wish: children's tales, Bible, encyclopedias, reference books. Record an explanation of each allusion and cite the source. You may paraphrase the information; there is no need to copy the entire entry. The purpose of the assignment is to give you the minimal background for these important tools to understand the literature you read.

Bible: Daniel and lions, Adam and Eve, Garden of Eden, Lot, Ruth, Lucifer, Job, Noah, Abraham and Isaac, Moses, Ten Commandments, David and Bathsheba, David and Absalom, Joseph and his brothers, Garden of Gethsemane, Judas Iscariot, Parable of Prodigal Son, Parable of Good Samaritan, and any other two biblical references you select.

Mythology: Daedalus and Icarus, Persephone and Demeter, Prometheus, Eurydice and Orpheus, Agamemnon, Achilles, The Holy Grail and any other three you pick.

Example:

Bible: Pharisees

Phar'isees, [B] [E] [H] [N]

"a religious party or school among the Jews at the time of Christ, so called from perishin, the Aramaic form of the Hebrew word perushim , 'separated.' The chief sects among the Jews were the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Essenes, who may be described respectively as the Formalists, the Freethinkers and the Puritans. A knowledge of the opinions and practices of the Pharisees at the time of Christ is of great importance for entering deeply into the genius of the Christian religion. A cursory perusal of the Gospels is sufficient to show that Christ's teaching was in some respects thoroughly antagonistic to theirs. He denounced them in the bitterest language; see (Matthew 15:7,8; 23:5,13,14,15,23; Mark 7:6; Luke 11:42-44) and compare (Mark 7:1-5; 11:29; 12:19,20; Luke 6:28,37-42) To understand the Pharisees is by contrast an aid toward understanding the spirit of uncorrupted Christianity."

From *Smith's Bible Dictionary* at

<http://www.biblestudytools.net/Dictionaries/SmithsBibleDictionary/?number=T3408>

Resources:

<http://www.biblestudytools.net/>

<http://web.uvic.ca/grs/bowman/myth/index.html>

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Major Works Data Sheet

Your Name _____

Title	Author
Date of Publication	Biographical information about the author
Historical information about the period of publication	Genre/ Characteristics of the genre
Names of Major Characters and Roles	Significant Description
Setting	Significance of Opening Scene/Closing Scene
Symbols	
Possible Themes ---Topics of Discussion	Possible Critical Approaches for Work Click here for information about types of literary criticism
<p>In this box you must give a minimum of three quotations per chapter from the text. Each must be related to one of the following:</p> <p>Literary Elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theme • characterization • setting • symbolism • imagery • foreshadowing <p>Style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diction 	<p>Reflection/Analysis/Significance of the quotations you chose. Here are some questions to guide your thinking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is this important? • How does this reveal theme? • What could this foreshadow? • What does this reveal about the protagonist? • Why does the author say it this way? • Why is this quotation significant? • Why is this quotation memorable? • How would you characterize the

- syntax
- tone/mood

- author's style?
- What is the tone/mood of this passage?

Common Types of Literary Criticism

While there are a variety of critical approaches to a piece of literature, the following are a few of the most used. Literary criticism, in general, is a specific way of interpreting and analyzing a piece of literature.

- **Historical Criticism** is concerned with the effects of a writer's historical milieu, such as race, place, and time upon the literary work. How does the author's historical setting influence the piece? Think back to the lesson in Module 1 on Langston Hughes's "Dream Deferred." This is a work that needs to be approached from an historical critical method in order to fully understand the power behind it.
- **Formalism** takes place when a careful, thoughtful, and well-informed reader judges the merit of a work as a whole. The focus is on the work itself and its creative components and how they work together. This form of criticism is applied by those taking the AP Exam as students when asked to analyze a piece and its merit based on what they know of literary techniques, structure, and style.
- **Psychoanalytic Criticism** is most often evaluating the psychological position of the author or character of a work to give meaning to or deeper insight into a work of literature. The story by Joyce Carol Oates "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" is better understood when applying this type of criticism for the main character Connie.
- **Feminist Critique** seeks to correct a perceived imbalance between power ascribed to males in society as opposed to power given to the female members of society. This type of criticism might point out how a perceived weakness of a female character might actually not be a weakness but a different type of powerful action than is typical of a male character. Or, this type of criticism might point out how the organization of society and what the culture teaches

subconsciously perpetuates male domination of society and the women in this society.

- **Socio-Political Criticism** is close to historical criticism, but it looks at the social situation of the author. This type of criticism brings to the forefront a political awareness of society's downtrodden and oppressed. This type of criticism often colors our attitudes toward a literary work of merit and whether or not we embrace it wholly. Chinua Achebe's criticism of *Heart of Darkness* as laced with racism considered in Module 1 is a socio-political approach as it exposes the bias of the author. It also calls into question how we view this piece of literature...is it a perfect model critiquing imperialism, or is it flawed in the sense that it points out the overt abuse of imperialism but neglects to expose the covert attitude and inherent tendencies of European society naming cultures other than white as savage.

***Heart of Darkness* Theme and Motif Guide**

Theme

Consider how the following reveal the hypocrisy of imperialism. Record your ideas below in complete sentences. Use examples from the text.

1. **Different settings** — Consider how Kurtz and the pilgrims act differently in the following settings.

- Belgium

- The Congo

- On the steamer

2. The **depiction** of the following. Consider how each is portrayed in the novel, and how they are opposites. Is one or the other more concerned with appearances than the other? What does this concern reveal about hidden motives and what hypocrisy is revealed?

- Kurtz vs. the pilgrims

- Civilization vs. Savagery

- Christians vs. Pagans
3. The **women** in the novel. Marlow says more than once that women are naïve, blindly trusting the stories of the civilizing of the Dark Continent. How do the women of the novel advance the theme of the hypocrisy of imperialism?
- The Intended vs. The African Mistress

Motif

Record 3-5 examples where the darkness motif is used. Include the quotation from the text if possible. Explain the meaning the idea of darkness gives in each situation.

1.

2.

3.