

DMHS Department of English

2018 Summer Assignment American Literature II

Incoming Sophomores - Grade 10 College Prep

Directions:

1. Read, *The Tortilla Curtain*
2. Complete the character analysis assignment
3. Complete the essay prompt

Character Analysis Assignment

For this portion of the summer reading assignment, you will focus on the four main characters of the novel: Candido Rincon, American Rincon, Delaney Mossbacher and Kyra Mossbacher. For each of the three parts of the story, you will find evidence (quotes) that reveal the character's personality, as well as their dreams and struggles. These notes will be the basis for class discussion, assignments and projects.

For example: *From The Scarlet Letter*

Master Dimmesdale- Chapter 8 "The Elf Child and the Minister"

Quote- "God gave her the child and gave her to an instinctive knowledge of its nature and requirements- both seemingly so peculiar- which no other mortal being can possess."

Explanation- The quote reveals that he wants Hester to keep her child, but he will not admit it is his child.

Part 1

Delaney

- Delaney's reaction to hitting Candido
- Delaney's home and family life
- Delaney's growing racism (There should be at least two examples of this from chapters 1-7)

Kyra

- Kyra's appearance and occupation
- Her treatment of her family

Candido

- Candido's stubbornness
- His relationship with America
- Candido's racism

America

- America as a wife
- America's desperation for money

Part 2

Delaney

- Delaney's growing racism
- Delaney's relationship with his wife

Kyra

- Her selfishness
- Her growing racism

Candido

- Candido's persistence
- Candido's plans for the future
- Candido's desperation

America

- America's dreams
- America's resentment towards Candido

Part 3

Delaney

- Delaney's isolation
- Delaney's continued racism

Kyra

- Kyra's concerns for the Da Ros house
- Kyra's racism

Candido

- Candido's concern for his family

America

- America's treatment of Candido

Essay Prompt

American Literature II focuses on the American Dream. Write about what your dreams or goals are in your life. Explain how you will begin to achieve your dream in the three years left of high school and after you leave Dwight Morrow. Essays need to be typed, double spaced and 12-point font. You will lose points for not following these directions. Essays need to be four paragraphs in length. (A paragraph is 5-6 sentences) **See the attached rubric for grading.**

1st paragraph – who you are and what your dream is

2nd paragraph- what steps will you take in high school to further your dream

3rd- what steps you plan on taking after high school

4th- conclusion

American Dream Essay Grading Rubric

Introduction -Have a hook (begin with a catchy opening statement) - Explain who you are (give some background about yourself) -Explain what your dream is and why	20 points possible
Body Paragraph # 1 - Be very specific here - explain what you need to do in high school to help this dream come true. (Extra help, tutorial, studying, doing homework, etc.) -You could also mention what you may not have done your Freshman year that you do not want to repeat	20 points possible
Body Paragraph # 2 -This paragraph is similar to your last but will focus on your life after high school. -What will you need to do after high school to make sure your dream comes true.	20 possible points
Conclusion -Restate your dream and how you plan on achieving that goal. -You are not re-writing the entire essay but summarizing in a few sentences. -How do you think you will feel after achieving your goal?	20 possible points
Grammar and Mechanics (PROOFREAD!)	10 possible points
Typed, double spaced, 12 font	10 possible points