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**Reading 2014**

Students are required to read one novel from each of the two categories listed below. Once you have read the two novels, you are to write two (2) essays- one for each title. Please refer to the essay topics on the reverse side of this sheet.

**All ESOL I-IV students are required to read one (1) title from the lists below.**

* ESOL Level I & II Students **ONLY** are to read one of the four (4) Spanish titles listed and create a comic strip summarizing the chosen novel.
* Alumnos de ESOL I & II **SOLAMENTE** deben leer uno (1) de los cuatro (4) libros listados en español y crear una tira cómica que resuma la novela escogida.

**Category 1**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Author** | **Genre** |
| 1984 | George Orwell | Classic Literature |
| A Farewell to Arms | Ernest Hemingway | Classic Literature |
| Catcher in the Rye | J. D. Salinger | Classic Literature |
| Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde | Robert Louis Stevenson | Classic Literature |
| El Viejo y el Mar **(ESOL I & II only)** | Ernest Hemingway | Classic Literature |
| The Old Man and the Sea | Ernest Hemingway | Classic Literature |
| Fahrenheit 451  | Ray Bradbury | Classic Literature |
| In Cold Blood | Truman Capote | Classic Literature |
| Jane Eyre | Charlotte Bronte | Classic Literature |
| Kindred  | Octavia Butler | Classic Literature |
| Of Mice and Men  | John Steinbeck | Classic Literature |
| Pride and Prejudice | Jane Austen | Classic Literature |
| Siddhartha | Herman Hesse | Classic Literature |
| The Metamorphosis  | Frank Kafka | Classic Literature |
| The Stranger | Albert Camus | Classic Literature |
| Treasure Island  | Robert Louis Stevenson | Classic Literature |

**Category 2**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Author** | **Genre** |
| American Born Chinese | Yang, Gene Luen  | Multicultural Fiction |
| House of Spirits  | Isabel Allende | Multicultural Fiction |
| Casa de los Espiritus **(ESOL I & II only)** | Isabel Allende  | Multicultural Fiction |
| City of Beasts | Isabel Allende | Multicultural Fiction |
| La Ciudad de las Bestias**(ESOL I & II only)** | Isabel Allende | Multicultural Fiction |
| In the Time of the Butterflies | Juila Alvarez | Multicultural Fiction |
| Joy Luck Club  | Any Tan | Multicultural Fiction |
| Keesha's House  | Helen Frost | Multicultural Fiction |
| Copper Sun  | Sharon Draper | Historical Fiction |
| Girl With a Pearl Earring  | Tracy Chevalier | Historical Fiction |
| La Joven de la Perla **(ESOL I & II only)** | Tracy Chevalier | Historical Fiction |
| Ringside, 1925: View from the Scopes Trial | Jennifer Bryant  | Historical Fiction |
| The Book Thief  | Markus Zusak | Historical Fiction |
| The Diving Bell and the Butterfly  | Jean-Dominique Bauby | Non-Fiction |
| The Omnivore's Dilemma | Micheal Pollan | Non-Fiction |
| Written in Bone  | Sally M. Walker | Non-Fiction |

**Essay Topics**

**Essay Requirements:**

Select an essay topic for each of the novels you have selected to read. Once you have done so, write one essay for each in an electronic format. These essays will be submitted to your English teacher via [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) the first week of school. It is important that each essay be 5-6 paragraphs long and completely answer the selected topics. Additionally, please make sure that the work you are submitting is entirely yours, as plagiarism will result in a failing grade and referral for suspension.

**Note:** ESOL I-IV students are only required to complete one essay to fulfill the Summer Reading requirement.

1. Consider the gender of the characters in your novel. How are male and female characters portrayed? How does the work portray their roles in society? How does gender influence the choices that are available to the characters and the decisions that they make? Write an essay that explores how gender affects the plot and character development in the novel.
2. Take a look at the characters in the novel that you've read. Each of the main characters in the novel is introduced with certain dreams, plans, and expectations. In the course of the novel, these main characters must come to terms with the difference between their dreams and the reality of the world around them. Write an essay depicting how the main characters navigate the journey from dreams to reality. What kind of course do they follow, and how are they changed for their journey?
3. Writers can't help but be influenced by the events and people that they see around them. To what extent does that influence become part of the works that they write and how do they communicate their feelings and beliefs about the world around them? For your essay, think about how the characters, setting, and themes in your novel relate to the period in which it was written. How is the novel an analysis of the period? How is it a reflection and how is it a criticism? And how does the writer make opinions about that world clear to the reader?
4. How does the title of the novel that you've read relate to the novel itself? Is the title descriptive; somewhat of a moral for the novel; a statement of the theme; or something else altogether? Why has the writer chosen this title over other possibilities? In your essay, analyze the relationship between title and novel, paying attention to the reasons that the title highlights something that the author wants readers to know or come to understand about the novel.
5. Think about the role that social class plays in the novel that you've read. What social classes are represented in the novel? To what extent is each class depicted? Are all the classes given equal representation? How do the classes shown in the novel relate to the classes that realistically existed in the time and place where the novel takes place? As you go through your novel, consider two important questions: how does the author feel about the different social classes, and how can you tell the author's opinion? Write an essay that explores the way that social class and class issues affect the characters and plot of your novel.

**ESOL Level I & II Student Assignment:**

* ESOL Level I & II Students **ONLY** are to read one of the four (4) Spanish titles listed and create a comic strip summarizing the chosen novel.
* Alumnos de ESOL I & II **SOLAMENTE** deben leer uno (1) de los cuatro (4) libros listados en español y crear una tira cómica que resuma la novela escogida.