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“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date.”

William Shakespeare (1564–1616), Sonnet 18

Welcome to English III Honors. British Literature is a cornerstone to the literary world. This year will be an exciting exploration as you read and analyze some of the greatest writers in the world.

My recommendation is that you complete the tasks as you are reading a particular novel; the work is easier when the novel is fresh within your mind.

Reading

1. **Read the books listed below:**

- *Crystal Cave*
- *Great Expectations*
- *Jane Eyre*

A limited number of copies of the required reading books are available at the Roxbury Public Library, or you may purchase your own copy at Barnes and Noble or another area bookstore.

Reading Tasks

The Crystal Cave:

Create a timeline of Merlin’s life that shows how Merlin grows and changes as he gains knowledge about his true identity. Use the books of the novel as your stopping places along the way. **In the timeline include:**

- The ways in which Merlin experiences isolation in the book and the reasons for it.
- Merlin’s teachers: Who are they? What are their roles? What knowledge does each teacher offer Merlin and how is this knowledge useful? Keep a running list as you read.
- The evolution of Merlin’s vision. How does Merlin develop his awareness of his gift? How does it save his life throughout the novel?
- Evidence of the times in which Merlin grows up: What is happening in the culture at each stage in terms of society and government? Describe this changing backdrop in each book of the novel.
- Include a quote from each book that represents the theme at this stage of Merlin’s coming-of-age journey

Your timeline should be typed with a heading for each book. You must illustrate it as well, with appropriate images for that book. Choice of format: Type one page for each book, with appropriate headings and mounted on poster board; or make the timeline into a PowerPoint. However, the content requirements must be met (as listed above). See rubric.

Jane Eyre:

Keep notes on the following aspects of the novel as you read. This material will be graded, so please write in pen, neatly, or type. Material written in pencil will not be accepted. Most of these tasks can be completed in a list format. Do not write in essay style with the exception of the last task, which requires several paragraphs.

- Jane lives in five places during the course of the novel. Discuss the significance of each of these locations to Jane; in other words, what happens to her in each place that influences her development? Find one quote that represents for you what each place signifies in terms of Jane's growth as an individual.
- Jane's relationships with women: Choose three women who play a major role in Jane's life and discuss how she relates to them and the significance of the relationship in terms of Jane's development as an individual.
- Do the same with the following men: Edward Rochester, St. John Rivers, Mr. Brocklehurst, John Reed (her cousin)
- Look up the following terms: romanticism, gothic, realism. Write a definition of each. List the ways in which this novel fits each definition. Also lookup *Bildungsroman* and define it.
- Research the story of Charlotte Bronte's life. Write a three- to five paragraph summary of Bronte's life. Include your source(s). Follow MLA style. No Wikipedia, please! In the summary include a discussion of the parallels you find between Charlotte Bronte's life and that of her heroine, Jane Eyre.

Great Expectations:

Keep notes on the following aspects of the novel as you read. This material will be graded, so please write in pen, neatly, or type. Material written in pencil will not be accepted. Most of these tasks can be completed in a list format. Do not write in essay style with the exception of the last task, which requires several paragraphs.

- Dicken's tale is set in London, England. Describe the atmosphere, political issues, and social issues during this time period. How does this atmosphere and setting enhance Dickens plot?
- Thematic doubles used in Dickens. Foil characters are used throughout the novel to emphasize traits and explore themes. Choose three sets of doubles and compare/contrast how they are directly and indirectly characterized by Dickens.
- Recalled to Life/Resurrection: "Recalled to Life" is a term used early in the novel, and repeatedly occurs as a theme of resurrection. Note and discuss any examples that exemplify this idea.
- Symbol search: Trace the following symbols throughout the novel and explain their significance: blood, red, shoebox. Define "mob mentality", and describe how it relates to the novel
- Research Charles Dicken's Life. Write a three to five paragraph summary of Dicken's life. Include your source(s). Follow MLA style. No Wikipedia, please! In the summary include a discussion of the parallels you find between Charles Dickens society and the societal issues in the novel.

All assignments are due on the first day of school.

All novels will be tested during the first week of school.

Questions? Feel free to e-mail me at the above e-mail address.

