

Independent Novel Project Guidelines

Projects are due and will be presented to the class **January 23rd, 2012**.

You will complete **three** of the following activities below. You are free to choose two; however, **everyone must complete letters A and F**. You may not choose to complete both letters D and E.

A. Reading Log: Create a reading log with a total of 20 quotes and reactions to the text spanning the entire novel. (formatting reminder: quote *directly* from text with page number on left side of paper, respond to quote on right—do not allow Sparknotes to do your work for you!)

B. Close Reading Analysis: Choose a passage (length: a paragraph to a page—think AP test passage selections) from the novel for a close reading analysis. Analyze the style of the passage; you may wish to discuss the imagery, details, diction, style of author, etc. in relation to the entire novel. Please reproduce the passage to hand in with your analysis. Your analysis should be no longer than two pages and follow MLA guidelines for formatting.

C. Character Analysis: Write an analysis of one central character from the novel. You may wish to discuss the character's function in the novel, their growth and development throughout the plot, etc. Your analysis should be no longer than two pages and follow MLA guidelines for formatting.

D. Sequel: Write the next chapter to your novel. Chapters must be written using the style, vocabulary, diction, and punctuation that imitates the author's. You may choose to create either an additional chapter or an Epilogue. Chapters should be more or less the length of chapters in your novel, though follow MLA guidelines for formatting.

E. Rewrite: Rewrite the final chapter(s) of your novel. Chapters must be written using the style, vocabulary, diction, and punctuation that imitates the author's. Chapters should be more or less the length of chapters in your novel, though follow MLA guidelines for formatting.

F. Plot Map: Create a detailed visual plot map outlining the novel as a whole. Plot maps should include: crucial elements of the plot identified and described, descriptions of main characters, analysis of themes, conflicts, symbolism, and other literary devices.

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Your assignment is to choose a contemporary novel (one published after 1980), originally written in English, of recognized literary merit to read and create a project (see the other side for a description of the project). One of the goals of this project is for you to have a contemporary novel that you know intimately well and about which you can write intelligently on the AP test. Keep this in mind when choosing your novel. You may think that *Twilight* is of literary merit, but it is unlikely that AP readers will agree. Below is a list of authors and novels that you may choose from, or you may propose your own novel.

Achebe: *Anthills of the Savannah*

Alexie: *Reservation Blues, Indian Killer*

Atwood: *The Handmade's Tale, The Blind Assassin, The Year of the Flood*

Barker: *Regeneration, The Ghost Road, The Eye in the Door*

Brooks: *March, Caleb's Crossing*

Chabon: *The Adventures of Kavalier and Klay, Wonderboys*

Cliff: *No Telephone to Heaven*

Coetzee: *Disgrace, Foe, Life & Times of Michael K, Slow Man*

Diaz: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Donohue: *Room*

Erdrich: *Love Medicine, Plague of Doves*

Ishiguro: *The Remains of the Day, When We were Orphans*

Jin: *Waiting, War Trash, Nanjing Requiem*

Kingsolver: *The Poisonwood Bible, Pigs in Heaven, Animal Dreams*

Lahiri: *The Interpreter of Maladies*

Lessing: *The Good Terrorist, The Cleft, The Sweetest Dream*

Martel: *Life of Pi, Beatrice and Virgil*

McCarthy: *The Road, All the Pretty Horses, No Country for Old Men, Blood Meridian*

McEwan: *Enduring Love, Amsterdam, Saturday*

Morrison: *Beloved, The Bluest Eye, Sula, Jazz, Paradise, Love*

Ontadje: *The English Patient, Anil's Ghost, Divisadero*

Roth: *American Pastoral, Human Stain, The Plot Against America*

Rushdie: *Midnight's Children, Shame, Satanic Verses, The Ground Beneath Her Feet, Shalimar the Clown*

Smiley: *A Thousand Acres, Moo, Ten Days in the Hills*

This list is by no means exhaustive. For more ideas, I suggest you look at award winning books (Man Booker, Pulitzer, Whitbread, National Book Award, PEN/Faulkner). Sign up for a book in class or email me if you don't choose prior to break.