

The novels I am assigning this summer are Cormac McCarthy's All the Pretty Horses and Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights.

Assignment:

1. Read both works thoroughly. Enjoy them. Read them at the beginning of the summer and, then, read them both again at the end of August. The second reading should be a close reading. Since you know the story already, the second reading gives you an opportunity for analysis. Your goal is study closely the writer's craft.

Consider the following: To understand tone is to understand meaning. If you misunderstood the author's tone, you have misunderstood the author's meaning.

Carefully look at diction, imagery, syntax, figurative language, symbols and motifs the author uses and develops in order to set tone.

2. For All the Pretty Horses find and identify 2 passages that remind you of Huck Finn. Take notes on the selections you have made. Focus on what elements in them seem somehow connected to Huck Finn and explain why.
3. Answer the following questions for Wuthering Heights carefully. You are expected to cite the novel to support your answers.

Questions:

1. In the first two chapters, Lockwood tries to read the residents of Wuthering Heights, trying to decipher their relationships and personalities, etc. Focusing on two of these attempts, consider what Lockwood's perceptions suggest about his abilities to read a situation. Given that he is the narrator, how does the opening set us up as readers of the novel?
2. What is the effect of filtering Heathcliff and Catherine's story through Lockwood's and Nelly Dean's accounts?
3. Analyze the scene which precedes the ghost's arrival at the casement window. Why does the ghost appear to Lockwood and not to Heathcliff?
4. How do each of the members of the family respond to Heathcliff when he first enters into Earnshaw family? Describe his early relationship with Mr. Earnshaw, Catherine and Hindley.
5. Why are there so many eruptions of violence in the novel? What do these repetitions of violence suggest? Discuss two scenes in detail.
6. Consider all the triangulated relationships in the novel. What do they suggest about the structure of desire?
7. How does the isolation and location of the novel's northern Yorkshire setting influence the tone and events of the story? What are the symbolic elements of tone and in the story?

8. What are the symbolic elements to the descriptions of the houses and their landscapes?

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- On the first day of school, there will be a short answer test on both novels.
- On the second day of class in September, you will be required to write an essay, on demand, using All the Pretty Horses. This essay will be taken from a former AP exam. This will give me an idea of your writing and will help us to evaluate your writing goals as well as your understanding of the novel. Then, we will compare and contrast several passages from All the Pretty Horses to passages from Huck Finn.
- After our work on the McCarthy novel, we will begin a unit study on Wuthering Heights.

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT FOR ENGLISH 12HC

In literature, most characters undergo a metamorphosis as a result of specific events in their life. Using *Frankenstein* or *The Kite Runner*, show how the protagonist changes during the course of the novel. Provide specific examples that chronicle this change.