**The Book Analysis Paper**

Using either *Wuthering Heights*, *Silas Marner*, *Pride and Prejudice,* or *Little Women*, you will analyze the work and succinctly convey that analysis in writing.

You will read your book carefully, directing particular attention to details that contribute to a coherent discussion of the items that follow. While you may continue to meet and discuss your novel in your literature circles, you must select themes, stylistic passages, and critical articles to discuss that differ from those your classmates use. These papers will be 5-7 pages in length spaced 1 ½ times in 12 point, clearly readable font, following MLA formatting. They will include:

**1. An introduction of some substance**

Ingredients should include the novel’s title, author, setting, and date of publication. The introduction must end with the statement of thesis, a definitive statement that reveals an attitude about the work, and an opinion that the subsequent sections will support.

For example, the thesis may make a qualitative statement about the work’s place in literary history or an appraisal of the novel’s theme, particularly as that theme may relate to subsequent paragraphs of the discussion. Above all, the thesis will be a generality to which all subsequent sections of the discussion are subordinate and immediately relevant. Use “theme” handout to assist you. (1 page)

**2. An investigation of a scholarly critical article**

Do not grab the first article you find; there are great articles and there are not so great articles. Attach a photocopy of the article to the back of your paper so I can read it. After summarizing the article, you are to agree or disagree with the major assertions of it. (1 page minimum)

**3. A discussion of the author’s style**

Although the style is the writer’s voice and personality shining through the work, you must approach an analysis and presentation of this topic on a somewhat mechanical level – an analysis of sentence structure and diction and how they connect with the work’s theme(s). Observations about sentence structure will note variety and type (use syntax handout), with specific references to the effect of such sentences. Diction, the author’s choice of words, may give evidence of forcefulness, directness, precision, or a number of other qualities. Word choices may convey emotional effects, sensuous qualities, or even a bombastic or learned tone. The passage you analyze should recognize a specific tone or tone shift. Recognizing the literary style is one of the most difficult and elusive subjects to approach; you must remember that choice is the issue. (1 page minimum)

**4. An explication of the novel’s theme – the abstract concept that becomes concrete through its representation in person, action, and imagery in the work.**

The theme may generalize about the human condition, an individual’s place in the universe, how people act under trying circumstances, or people’s relationship with one another or with a society. You may wish to approach this section by considering the author’s purpose in writing the novel and how the parts of the work support that purpose. Two special approaches to theme make be useful. Understanding the theme(s) of a fairly brief, highly structure work may make it easier for you to isolate the major conflict, recognize the point at which the elements of conflict come together in the novel’s climax, and determine what the resolution of that climax says. Another path to understanding – particularly in the case of a highly symbolic novel – lies in tracing the patterns of recurrent images throughout the work and in recognizing their roles as signs or exponents of theme. The fusion of these elements at some point in the work is a manifestation of the novel’s theme(s). (1 page minimum)

**5. A conclusion that wraps up the the discussion and evaluates the novel**

This section ties together the major points but also uses the observations about style, theme, and scholarly criticism to evaluate and explain judgements about the novel’s literary excellence, its values, and its universality. (1 page)

**6. A Works Cited page**

This page will cite the novel itself along with your selected scholarly article and poem. If you do have any other sources for any reason (see me first for permission), include their citations here as well. Follow MLA guidelines.

**Important Dates:**

November 19 Bibliography due: Choose your scholarly article and properly cite both it and the novel. Turn in a printed copy with your name on it.

November 30 Notecards due: Using Easybib, create at least 20 notecards from your novel and scholarly article. Each notecard must have a title, source, direct quote, internal citation, and comment.

December 4 Rough Draft due: Turn it in to turnitin.com by 8AM. Complete at least ¾ of each section

December 7-11 Conferences: Students should come to an in class conference about their paper with specific questions they have about their work.

December 14 Final Draft due to turnitin.com at 8AM.

**Final Instructions and information:**

* Don’t even consider using information or sources other than the novel itself, and a scholarly published article, which you will credit and cite in your paper. This assignment is weighted far too heavily for you to risk losing all credit because of plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional.
* It is crucial that you read and understand your book closely. Any summaries you read of your work will do you a disservice in completing this assignment.
* No late papers will be accepted.
* If you need any additional help, be sure to schedule an appointment before or after school.