

Summer Reading 2017
Providence Christian Academy
English 9 and 10

Summer reading paragraphs and projects are due on Monday, August 28, 2017.

1. **SELECT AND READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NOVELS.** Do not use an abridged version of any type. Be prepared to discuss – both orally and in writing – the plot, conflicts, characters, and themes – of the novel you read. On the back of this sheet you will find a list of questions to consider as you read your novel.

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.” So begins this story that centers on the years leading up to the French Revolution and culminates in the Reign of Terror. Set in London and Paris, it tells the story of two men, Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton, who look similar but are very different in traits.

Orczy, Baroness Emmuska. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

The Scarlet Pimpernel is set in 1792, during the early stages of the French Revolution. A band of English noblemen, led by the elusive Pimpernel, face danger and experience many adventures in their attempts to rescue French aristocrats from the guillotine.

2. **ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE ARE TWO SETS OF DISCUSSION TOPICS.** Select one section (A, B, C, or D) from the list that applies to the novel your read and respond to the question(s) in writing. Your answer should be in paragraph form and should use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You may write your answer in cursive, using blue or black ink and writing on every other line; or you may type your response. Computer-generated responses should have 1” margins, use Times New Roman/12- or 14-pt. font, and be double-spaced. Include a heading with your name, English 9/10, and the date. Your assignment line should be the title of your novel. Responses should be one-half to one page in length. If you hand write your response, your response will probably need to be closer to a page in length, depending on the size of your handwriting, since you will be writing on every other line. **BE SURE THAT YOUR PAPER IS NEAT!**

At the end of your paper, skip a line or two and then write and sign **one** of the following statements:

I read this _____ *title* _____ by _____ *author* _____ in its entirety.

I read _____ pages of _____ *title* _____ by _____ *author* _____;

3. **SELECT AND ILLUSTRATE AN IMPORTANT SCENE FROM YOUR NOVEL.** Choose a scene that you feel is important to character, plot, or theme development. With your project, include a paragraph that identifies the theme and explains its importance in the novel.* Choose **ONE** of the following methods to illustrate/display your scene.
- A. Poster: Original art work – Any medium is acceptable, including computer-generated art work; however, you may not simply print someone else’s artwork/book cover, etc.
 - B. Diorama
 - C. Model: Any medium is acceptable
 - D. Poem (of at least 16 lines): Include scene and character details in your narrative poem!

***Place your paragraph on the back of the poster, diorama, or poem. If you create a model, submit the paragraph along with the model. Include the title and author of the novel as well as your name and class.**

4. **EXTRA CREDIT? Read the other novel and create a project for it also.**

If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Pyles at bpyles@pcalions.org.

Identify yourself in the subject line!

Be thorough in your responses. Support your statement with examples from the novel and/or Scripture (whichever applies). A good Bible concordance (available online) will help you find Bible references. Use formal English in your essay; avoid contractions, slang, and abbreviations. Maintain third person point of view and past tense in your responses.

***A Tale of Two Cities* Discussion Topics**

- A. The opening paragraph of *A Tale of Two Cities* is one of the most famous in all of English literature. It is an example of parallelism, the repeated use of words, phrases, or sentences that have similar grammatical form. Discuss how Dickens uses parallelism to state themes that might be developed in the novel. Point to examples from Book the First that continue the development of themes introduced in the opening paragraph.
- B. Discuss the use of light and shadow imagery throughout the novel. Give specific examples of each. Does the use of these contrasting shades reflect any Scriptural truth?
- C. Discuss the resurrection theme in *A Tale of Two Cities*. Which characters are "recalled to life"? How? What Biblical principles are reflected/illustrated in these situations?
- D. Another theme of this novel is revenge. What does the Bible have to say about vengeance? How does the desire for revenge impact the characters in the novel? What do anger and a thirst for revenge do to us in our day-to-day lives?

***The Scarlet Pimpernel* Discussion Topics**

- A. How does the author use appearances to mislead in the novel? How do the deceptions impact the various characters? What Biblical truth can be applied to the fact that things are not always as they seem?
- B. Loyalty is a major theme in this novel. What conflicting loyalties face Lady Blakeney and how do they help develop her character? How do her responses reflect or disagree with Biblical principles of friendship and faithfulness?
- C. How does loyalty play a key role in the distinction between Percy succeeding and Chauvelin failing in achieving their goals? Are these respective men's followers equally loyal to their causes? Is their loyalty distinct?

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