

## Literature and Language 2010 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear 12<sup>th</sup> graders:

May 2010

Literature and Language is a class that helps you prepare for the reading, writing, and thinking demands of college. Because you are seniors, I know you have phenomenal close-reading skills and you will take careful notes without being prompted. In case you are uncertain of what you should write about, focus on your reactions to characters and their words and actions as well as some thoughtful jotting about themes and symbols and writing technique.

This summer's reading will be somewhat unique, as you will be reading a work from three quite different literary forms – a novel, a play, and a graphic novel.

**You will be reading two novels and a play this summer.**

1. ***Kite Runner*** by Khaled Hosseini, a story about Afghanistan and the Taliban
2. ***Doll's House*** by Henrik Ibsen, a play of social criticism set in 19<sup>th</sup> century Norway
3. ***Persepolis*** by Marjane Satrapi, a graphic novel about life in Iran during the revolution

### THE NOVEL

Please begin with Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. This is a long, complex, and beautifully written novel. I put it first because I want you to take your time with it. For most students, this novel will take as much time as the other two summer readings combined. Many of you will find it helpful to read some parts of the novel more than once.

This is a novel about secrets, as is the play below. Most of the characters in this novel make a conscious choice to keep an important piece of information secret from other characters. In every case, the keeping of this secret has profound consequences for their characters, their actions, or ultimately, their fates.

Please choose **one of the major characters** and write a carefully written and thoughtfully organized three-paragraph reflection on:

- 1) what motivates the character to choose secrecy rather than revelation
- 2) what effect does the secret have on the character's moral compass and his relationships with the other characters
- 3) what actions does this character take to prevent revelation of his secret and how does this eventually affect his life

Please email this to me [Dave@crossroadscollegeprep.org](mailto:Dave@crossroadscollegeprep.org) **on or before August 15** because I would like to hand them back when school begins.

### THE PLAY

Read Henrik Ibsen's three-act play *A Doll's House*. The primary way that audiences get to know about characters in drama is through spoken lines. For each act of this play, select a spoken line (on consecutive lines) that you think are representative of the following 4 characters: Nora Helmer, Torvald Helmer, Christine Linde, Nils Krogstad. You will select a total of 12 lines (4 characters X 3 acts). In most cases, the line will be spoken by the character her/himself. Occasionally, you may find a line that is said by another character is incredibly revealing about the person it is spoken to or about. For each of these quotes,

provide a page number and a 3-5-sentence explanation of what the quote says about the character. If you find any of these characters to be dynamic, be sure that the quotes you select for them are representative of the change the audience sees.

Four characters, three acts, twelve quotes – this could get messy! Please present this information to me on the first day of class in a manner that that is organized and easy to digest – lists with clear headings, a chart, something that shows off your organizational skills.

Though I did not require quotes for Dr. Rank, don't ignore him. He's an important character too.

## **THE GRAPHIC NOVEL**

Most of us are not used to reading a graphic novel critically. What makes the graphic novel unique is its graphics (duh!). Try to be aware of how the visual aspect of the work is impacting the story and your interaction with it. As you read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, mark with Post-It notes 15 individual frames (or pairs of sequential frames) that you find particularly interesting or meaningful. On each Post-It write a number (1-15). Spread the frames you identify throughout the whole novel (approximately 1 every 30 pages or so). Now you will write brief (4-6 sentences) journal entries for each of the 15 frames (or pairs of frames) you've identified with Post-It Notes. Number the entries to coincide with the numbers on the Post-It Notes. Use the prompt suggestions below, or feel free to create prompts of your own. Please use a variety of prompt, not one or two of the same over and over again. A summary is not an acceptable mode of response for this assignment.

Prompts for journal entries:

- Analyze the graphics/images of the frame(s) – What does the drawing suggest?
- Analyze the rhetoric of the text in the frame(s) – consider such things as word choice, use of figurative language, use of dialogue, tone, etc.
- Analyze the interaction between text and graphics – consider layout (especially placement of text in relation to graphics), what Satrapi illustrates in the drawing as opposed to the text, how the text and graphics complement each other, etc.
- Explain how the frame(s) contribute(s) to the larger themes, character development, plot, etc. in the novel.
- Examine Satrapi's use of the modes of appeal (ethos, logos, pathos).
- Draw comparisons and/or contrast with passages or scenes in other texts you've read in previous English classes.
- Analyze the way Satrapi educates her readers on the history of Iran.
- Make connections to your own life.
- Critique the effectiveness of the frame(s) in some focused way.
- Rewrite or redraw the frame and explain why you did so.
- Respond in some other method of your own design.

Be ready to hand in your Post-It marked text and journal on the first day of class.

Remember that you will still be responsible for knowing up to lesson 18 In *Everyday Words*!

If you have any questions, please email me [Dave@crossroadscollegeprep.org](mailto:Dave@crossroadscollegeprep.org). I am looking forward to working with you in August!

The information on this sheet is available on line. The CCPS website will direct you to the following link: <http://sites.crossroadscollegeprep.org/summerreading/>