

2019 Summer Reading

Grade 10

Book Choices ~ Choose one of the books below to read over the summer. This assignment will be due Wednesday, August 14 (this is when you will take your summer reading test).

1. *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins
2. *Maus I and Maus II* by Art Spiegelman
3. *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner

Directions: Read each question fully and answer in 3-5 complete sentences. See the attached list for full information on Point of View, Conflict, Symbols, and Themes.

1. What is the point of view of the novel? How does the PoV impact the telling of the story?
2. Name the main conflict of the novel. List 3 minor conflicts that occur in the novel. How do the conflicts play out and work together to enhance the plot?
3. List 3-5 symbols that are found in the novel. What ideas/concepts do these tangible items represent?
4. Name two themes that are taught through the story. What lessons do these themes teach the reader? Why are those lessons important to the reader?

Choose one of the prompts for the novel you read and answer it in 3-5 paragraphs. Make sure that you format your journal in proper MLA format.

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

1. Several characters use duplicity to achieve goals in *Catching Fire*. What are some examples and, in your opinion, were the characters justified?
2. Why is Katniss drawn to Wiress, Beetee and Mags instead of the stronger victors like the Careers?

Maus I and II by Art Spiegelman

1. *Maus* is written in the rather unconventional form of a graphic novel. Is this format an effective means of telling a Holocaust narrative? How might it differ from a more conventional Holocaust narrative?
2. What is the significance of the author's decision to portray people of different races and nationalities as different animals? What effect does this have on the understanding and impact of the story?

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

1. A number of Young Adult novels exist now (*The Hunger Games*, *Maximum Ride*, as well as the *Maze Runner*) which present a dystopian worldview. These books have become increasingly popular with Young Adults as well as other demographics. Why do you think that is? Are they purely escapism or is there more to it than that?

2. Chuck and Alby both sacrifice themselves in the novel, though for differing reasons. Compare these two characters and why they sacrifice themselves.

Information Sheet: Conflict, Point of View, Symbols, and Theme

Conflict

1. Man vs. Man: Any story featuring a hero and a villain or villains represents this type of conflict
2. Man vs. Self: A protagonist's struggle with his or her own prejudices or doubts or character flaws constitutes this type of conflict
3. Man vs. Nature: The protagonist is pitted against nature or a representation of it, often in the form of an animal
4. Man vs. Society: When the protagonist's conflict extends to confronting institutions, traditions, or laws of his or her culture, he or she struggles to overcome them, either triumphing over a corrupt society, rejecting it, or succumbing to it
5. Man vs. Technology: A protagonist's struggle with any type of technology that is new in the world. This can be anything from robots and space ships to a refrigerator, toaster, or weapons.
6. Man vs. Supernatural: The protagonist's struggle against a being that is not human or of nature; such as, ghosts, spirits, demons, angels, God, etc. (Supernatural just means anything outside of the natural realm of humanity)
7. Man vs. Fate: A protagonist's struggle with his or her own destiny; an outcome that they cannot control

Point of View

1. First Person: First person is used when the main character is telling the story. This is the kind that uses the "I" narrator. As a reader, you can only experience the story through this person's eyes. So you won't know anything about the people or events that this character hasn't personally experienced.
2. Second Person: Second person point of view is generally only used in instructional writing. It is told from the perspective of "you".
3. Third Person Limited: Limited means that the POV is limited to only one character. Which means that the narrator only knows what that character knows. With third person limited you can choose to view the action from right inside the character's head, or from further away, where the narrator has more access to information outside the protagonist's viewpoint.
4. Third Person Multiple: This type is still in the "he/she/it" category, but now the narrator can follow multiple characters in the story. The challenge is making sure that the reader knows when you are switching from one character to another. Make the switch obvious with chapter or section breaks.

5. Third Person Omniscient: This point of view still uses the "he/she/it" narration but now the narrator knows EVERYTHING. The narrator isn't limited by what one character knows, sort of like the narrator is God. The narrator can know things that others don't, can make comments about what's happening, and can see inside the minds of other characters.

Symbols

1. In literature, a symbol is an object, person, or situation that has another meaning other than its literal meaning. The actions of a character, words, or event that have a deeper meaning in the context of the whole story.
2. Put simply, a symbol is a concrete object with an abstract—deeper—meaning.

Theme

1. Theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly.
2. It is the lesson(s) that the author wants the reader to learn by reading their book.