

Springfield High School Required Summer Reading and Writing - Honors ELA 12 *Native Son*- Richard Wright Assignments 1 and 2

Reading Assignment: Please purchase and read Richard Wright's *Native Son* and take analytical notes to aid you in the writing work. We will be referencing specific portions of the text during the opening week of the course and the more specific your notes the more prepared you will be to respond to discussion questions. These notes will be collected and are critical for weaving textual evidence into your written assignment. They can also be used for class discussion and reading quizzes. In the opening weeks of school you will be asked questions about specific excerpts from the text and having detailed notes will enable you to respond intelligently. You will submit your notes via google classroom in August.

Our readings, discussions, and reflections will inspire us to probe deeply into not only characters, but also the manner in which the author creates that character to embody very human and often universal character traits. Authorial choice is the awareness that authors make deliberate choices with intended consequences. In your notes and essays, you will need to analyze the choices authors make and how they impact the reading experience. For example, the name of a character, the setting, key images, the narrative style, the symbols – every single diction choice in the book is an authorial choice you can analyze.

Assignment 1 - Analytical Writing - Select ONE of the following choice essays:

Choice 1-Writing Assignment 1 (2-3 pages)

You can leave home all you want, but home will never leave you. — Sonsyrea Tate. Sonsyrea Tate's statement suggests that home may be conceived of as a dwelling, a place, or a state of mind. It may have positive or negative associations, but in either case, it may have a considerable influence on an individual. Identify and explain Bigger's experience of home and analyze the importance of home to this character and the reasons for its continuing influence. Explain how the character's idea of home illuminates the larger meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot. You must clearly identify and describe Bigger's experience of home and explicitly argue how it conveys the meaning of the work as a whole. You must explicitly name what you believe the meaning of the work as a whole to be. You may want to conclude your argument by claiming what would be missing from the meaning of the work as a whole without the character's experience of home and its lingering influence on him. AVOID PLOT SUMMARY ENTIRELY. Be sure to include a minimum of 5-7 properly cited textual excerpts in your analysis. Work cited required. Title your essay in a way that indicates your argument. We will submit this essay electronically via google classroom.

Choice 2-Writing Assignment 1 (2-3 pages)

Critic Roland Barthes has said, — Literature is the question minus the answer. Analyze *Native Son*, and, considering Barthes' observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question the work raises and the extent to which it offers answers. Explain how the author's treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. To craft an effective argument you must clearly and specifically name and identify the central question the work raises and the extent to which Wright offers answers. You may want to conclude your argument by claiming what would have been missing from the meaning of the work as a whole if Wright had not introduced this question. AVOID PLOT SUMMARY ENTIRELY. Be sure to include a minimum of 5-7 properly cited textual excerpts in your analysis. Work cited required. Title your essay in a way that indicates your argument. We will submit this essay electronically via google classroom.

Assignment 2 - Reflective Writing (3-4 pages)

Select the three most pivotal passages in *Native Son* and reflect on how they impacted you as a reader. Your excerpt can be as brief as a word, phrase or sentence or as lengthy as an entire passage on a page. Type out each excerpt and then include your reflective analysis on the author's choices in the passage and how they made you think and feel. How does the passage connect to your learning in other disciplines? Can you make an intertextual connection to a song, film, or other media experience? Why do you think this is such a key passage? What would be missing from the author's message without this passage? You can arrange this piece of writing however you like. It will most likely not be a traditional essay format. You will probably introduce the excerpt and then write your reflective analysis. Then introduce the next excerpt, and so on... We will submit this essay electronically via google classroom.

Both assignments (Analytical Choice Essay and Reflective Writing Piece) are to be submitted via google classroom in August. These will be the first grades of the semester so be sure to submit your best work as it will set the tone for your senior year. Writing must be MLA formatted and supported by properly documented in-text citations. Do include a Works Cited for the text you are referencing.