

Contemporary Texts...

Whole Class? Book Clubs? Independent?

Back to our **VERY BIG** question about English class. **Should students be required to read particular texts? If so, should they be whole class or independent? Book Clubs?**

So far this year, you've read:

- **Book Clubs:** Classics
- **Whole Class:** The Bluest Eye and Macbeth
- **Independently:** At least three of your own texts

Now it's time to get some more texts under our belts! Remember, the highest indicator of success on the SAT is time spent independently reading. What a fun way to get better at an annoying fact of our lives!

For the next three weeks you will be the judge of some of the texts I've chosen that are more contemporary. Contemporary means living or occurring at the same time, so these are "recent" texts that are both popular and have literary worth.

Task:

By Friday, April 17th read and finish two texts and post on Goodreads. Here's the details...

1. Read **TWO** contemporary texts from Christy's selection.

**Alternate texts are fine for one of your choices, but must be cleared with Christy and must be written for adults. You will have in class time for reading this week and the week after break. You may also use that time for goodreads posts- asynchronous time! I'll be conferencing with each of you during this time.*

2. **During Reading:** Collect any notes that may help you to answer the essential question - should this text be a required read for high schoolers? Consider literary elements and connections to other subjects. Is there a theme that would make for juicy conversations? Is there a quotation or chunk of text that illuminates why you feel as you do about this text?

3. **After Reading..Goodreads posts:** The way that you will analyze the text is via **TWO** goodreads posts. This will be a bit more polished than your check-ins and will feel more like a review. **However, they should not be more than three to four paragraphs, tops! We are working on being CONCISE!**

Driving Question: Should this text should be read by all high schoolers? If so, why? In what capacity - as book clubs? Whole class? Independently? If not, why not?

- Be sure you have a thesis that answers the driving question
- Be sure to mention literary elements
- Be sure to put in at least one quote by the text
- Researching any outside info- such as reviews- may also strengthen your argument, but is not necessary
- I suggest drafting before you post
- This should be no less than a paragraph and no more than a page on a word document!

Contemporary Texts Project Rubric

NAME:

| Evidence | Outcome | NY | MS | ES |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----|--|---|
| In Class Work Time & Conferencing | PLAN | | Completes all elements of assignment on time. Observed work sessions and planning materials demonstrate an attempt to engage all elements. | Thoroughly completes all elements of assignment on time. Observed work sessions and planning materials demonstrate a thorough attempt to engage all elements of the assignment process. |
| Goodreads Posts | Discern | | Shows a basic understanding of the text and subtext _You are able to gain surface meaning from a text, which is evident through your response | Makes inferences that display a sophisticated understanding of the text and subtext _Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis |
| Goodreads Posts | Be Precise | | Uses language, content and mechanics to represent ideas accurately. Any errors do not take away from the reading of your work. | Use language, content and mechanics accurately to progress ideas and meaning. You have no noticeable errors in grammar and mechanics. ___Language is precise and engaging |
| Goodreads Posts | Communi-cate | | Attempts to effectively communicate ideas and conclusions. ___ Writing is clear and organized ___ Writing is concise, and only the necessary information is included. | Effectively communicates ideas and conclusions. ___ The order, structure, or presentation of information is compelling and moves the reader through the text. |
| Goodreads Posts | Argue | | Explains position with sound logic reasons and valid evidence ___ Quote from the text and mention of literary elements are used to support argument. | Solidifies position with provable evidence that enhances thesis/claim ___ Relevant and appropriate evidence enriches explanations and build a case for the thesis ___ Rich explanations build the argument and convince the reader |

Self-Reflection: