

Welcome to English 2H! This summer, you will read a World Literature novel and begin thinking about how an author's cultural background, life experiences, and historical context influence the stories they tell. Your work will serve as the foundation for a research paper that we will complete during the school year.

1. Select a World Literature novel to read. It must be written by a non-American author, a work of fiction (not a true story), and set outside of the United States. The culture, traditions, values, and daily life of the setting should be an important part of the story. The library has a cart of books that fit this criteria! Look for the “Literature from Around the World” sign. Additionally, you may have a book from home, or you may find your own to buy.

2. Read the book, and as you read, pay attention to:

- Important themes and messages
- Character development
- Cultural traditions, values, and beliefs
- Historical or social issues
- Questions you have about the author's background or the culture represented in the novel

3. Select 5–7 meaningful passages from your novel. Your passages should come from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.

For each passage, complete the following:

- Quote the Passage. Write out the entire passage and include the page number.
- Summarize the Passage. Briefly explain what the passage means in your own words.
- Explain the Context. Describe what is happening in the story before and after the passage. Why is this moment important?
- Analyze the Passage. Write a thoughtful analysis in complete sentences. Go beyond summary and personal reaction. Your analysis should demonstrate the close-reading skills you learned in freshman English. Focus on how and why the author creates meaning, not just what happens.

- What is the author trying to communicate?
 - What theme or idea is being developed?
 - How does the author's use of language, imagery, symbolism, characterization, or other literary techniques contribute to meaning?
 - What does this passage reveal about the characters, conflict, or setting?
- Cultural Connection. Explain how this passage reflects the culture, traditions, values, beliefs, history, or social issues represented in the novel.
- What does this passage teach readers about the culture?
 - How might the author's background or experiences have influenced this scene?
 - What cultural perspectives are revealed?

4. Research Notes and Questions

As you read, keep a list of at least 5 observations, questions, or topics that could be explored through research. For example:

- ★ Historical events mentioned in the novel
- ★ Cultural traditions or customs
- ★ Social issues or conflicts
- ★ Religious beliefs or practices
- ★ Questions about the author's life and experiences
- ★ References you do not fully understand

These notes will help you develop a research topic and thesis when we begin our research paper.

Your submission on a Google Doc should include:

- Novel title and author
- 5–7 passage analyses
- At least 5 research notes/questions
- Typed, double-spaced
- Complete sentences throughout
- MLA format

Please let me know if you have any questions! srantz@njuhsd.com