

AP Literature

Bonus Assignment-2015

Follow these guidelines to guarantee credit. (up to 2% of the final grade, applied to either semester)

Due: January 3rd, e-mailed to Mr. Johnson-

E-mail conditions-After you e-mail the assignment, you should receive a reply. If you do not receive a reply, you need to make sure you find a way to contact Mr. Johnson (a different e-mail, perhaps).

I finalize grades on January 4th. "I sent the e-mail to you, but you must have not received it" is not an acceptable excuse. So, the reply is your confirmation that I have received your work, and you are eligible for credit. (Give me at least 48 hours to e-mail you back before you show up at my door)

Answer ONE of the prompts below, from ONE of the selections below, as the "Essay question number 3" on the AP test. Use AP Central as a resource to look at examples of essays, prompts, etc., if you need.

Write an essay response based on the expectations of an AP Essay.

****Your essay should NOT be MORE than 650 words** (By the way, 500 would be ok, too)**

You will be counted off for more words than the maximum. Efficiency and complexity in argument is preferred.

All directions must be followed in order to receive credit. I think you can learn from this assignment and encourage you to do it. Please feel free to e-mail if you have any questions at all.

Choice 1.

Assignment: Read the novella, The Death of Ivan Ilych, by Leo Tolstoy, 1886.

1. Like many people in adverse circumstances, Ivan Ilyich wants to know why he has been afflicted with his illness, what he has done to deserve this cruel fate. Does Tolstoy in fact suggest that there is any cause-and-effect relationship, that his illness is in any way a punishment for the way he has lived? If not, what is the larger thematic function of his illness and suffering?
2. Several times over the course of the novella, we find statements very much like this one: "So that on the whole Ivan Ilyich's life proceeded as he felt it should—pleasantly and properly" (Chapter 2). One's first, instinctive reaction to such comments might be, "Well, what's wrong with that?" What, according to Tolstoy, is wrong with that?
3. Tolstoy writes: "Ivan Ilych's life had been most simple and most ordinary and therefore most terrible." How does Tolstoy use this story, and his character, to make sense of that statement?

Choice 2

Assignment: Read the novella, The Awakening, by Kate Chopin.

In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a novel or play in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Choice 3

Assignment: Read the novella, Billy Budd, by *Herman Melville*.

In Kate Chopin's, The Awakening, (1899), protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess "That outward existence which conforms, the inward life that questions."

In a novel or play that you have studied, identify a character who outwardly conforms while questioning inwardly. Then write an essay in which you analyze how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid mere plot summary.

(No, this is not a mistake. This prompt is for Billy Budd)