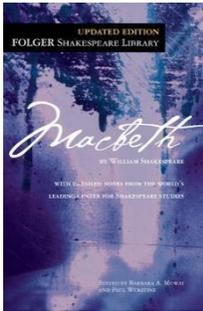




2021-2022 RISING TWELFTH GRADE HONORS BRITISH LITERATURE SUMMER READING

Students should read two books: one required title AND one selected from the list provided below. (England Study Abroad participants are exempt from these assignments but may choose to complete the second assignment – not *The Great Divorce* – to boost the test category at the start of the year.)

NOTE: STUDENTS MUST SELECT A TITLE THEY HAVEN'T READ BEFORE!



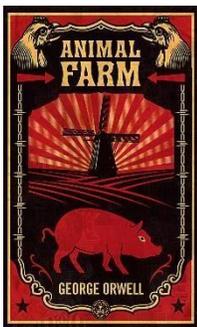
REQUIRED: *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

Any edition is fine as long as it is the full-length text in the **original Shakespearean** language (no side-by-side modern translations).

TASK: Students will complete an objective assessment the third day of class.

PICK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

In addition to *Macbeth*, choose **one** of the following novellas/plays for which you will complete margin notations (see directions and sample below) by the second day of class. Summaries/recommendations are outlined to assist you with selecting a work most suited to your taste. Though no specific ISBNs are required, students must read a complete and unabridged text, and no side-by-side translations should be used. You will need a *clean* copy of your book (electronic versions, used books with notes, and books on loan will not work for this assignment). Dover Classics eliminate lengthy introductions/notes and are usually reliable full-text editions at affordable prices. SEE TASK AFTER THE LIST.



Animal Farm

by George Orwell

A biting fable exposing the flaws of Communism, the animals on an English farm represent the leaders in the Russian Revolution. At points, readers may find themselves rooting for the animals to overcome the humans, the cause of their sufferings. However, as certain animals fall into the same (or worse) habits as the humans, the perceived victims who lead the animals to rebellion shift to the antagonists. What would be a simple story of farm animals, then, becomes a harrowing symbol of an entire political movement.

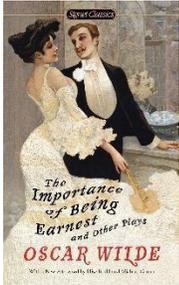


The Great Divorce

by C.S. Lewis

A fictional supposition of the afterlife, Lewis envisions a haunting scenario wherein people must choose to follow their own will (ambition, pride, passion) thereby severing themselves from God, or they must surrender to His will and gain ultimate joy and peace in return. A

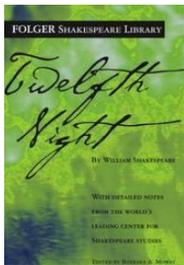
single bus-ride could end in eternal life or death. Consistent with Lewis's style of writing (intellectual, profound, and spiritually challenging), the truth underscoring the premise of this novella will resonate within the soul of the reader, forcing him to re-estimate his own faith.



The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

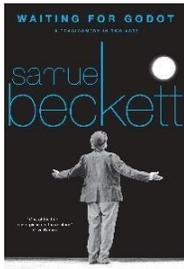
This witty play mocking the social norms of Victorianism recounts the comical misadventures of Algernon Moncrieff and John/Jack/Ernest Worthing. This story of love, deception, false identities, trivialities, and unlikely conclusions provides its readers with hearty laughs and the after-dinner-full-belly kind of satisfaction. Who knew Victorian literature could be this much delicious fun?!



Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

If you have ever seen the movie *She's the Man*, you are vaguely familiar with this story. One of Shakespeare's most frequently-performed comedies, it is a delightful romp involving mistaken identities and accidental love. The story begins with a shipwreck separating Viola from her twin brother Sebastian, both imagining the other dead. Viola dresses up like a man to take a job working for Duke Orsino, but soon, one woman finds herself attracted to the boy she doesn't know is a girl, and the Duke resists his chemistry with Viola, thinking her a man. Thus begins the hilarity and mix-ups that are sure to delight.



Waiting for Godot

by Samuel Beckett

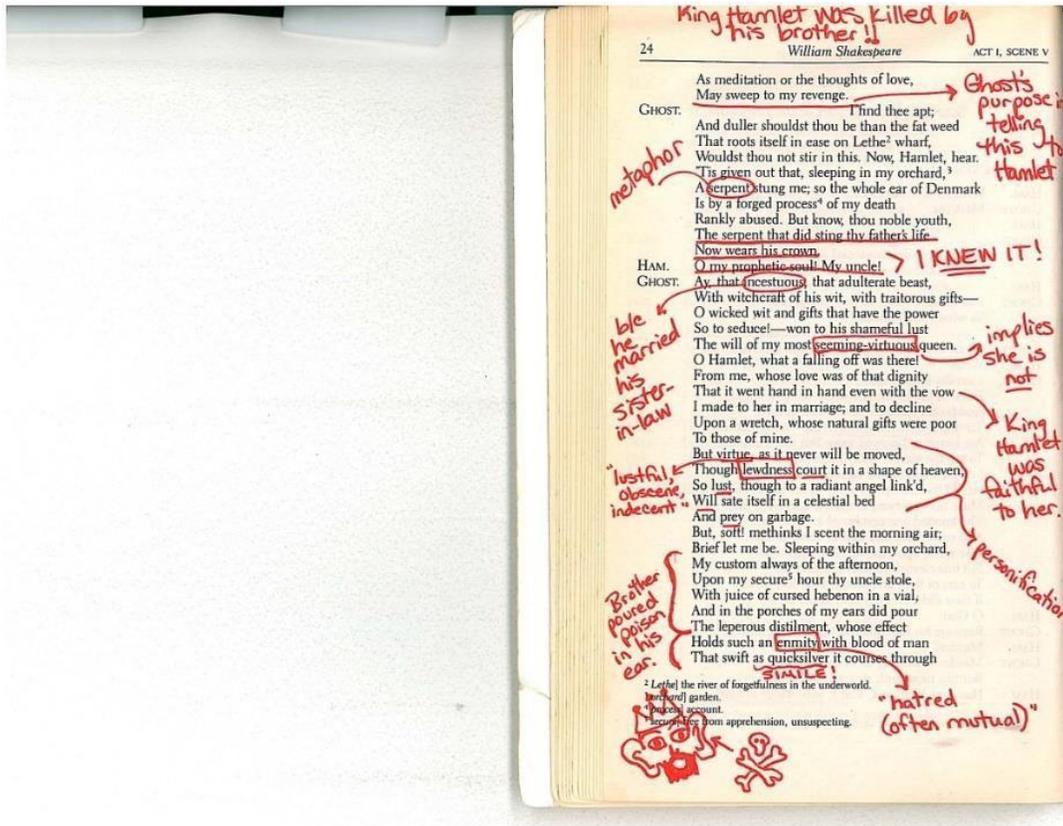
Who can tell whether this short play is a tragedy or a comedy? In the ironic and frustrating nothingness of what happens, much can be inferred. The memorably disturbing characters Vladimir and Estrogon wait interminably for the arrival of someone who never comes. Characteristic of the Theatre of the Absurd, this play employs dark humor and deprecated reason to comment on the nature of man without purpose. As Christians, we can note some interesting parallels: the hilltop may represent Golgotha, making the two men similar to the two criminals placed next to Jesus (symbolized by the tree in the story); likewise, the white-bearded shepherd Godot could easily signify God.

TASK: MARGIN NOTATIONS

Margin notations are comments and questions made by the reader that demonstrate interaction with the text. A sample page showing thorough and insightful margin notes is provided. The grade will be based on **variety, thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and accuracy**. Most *every* page should include multiple notations. **Random highlights and underlining without commentary do not count for credit. Additionally, no side-by-side translations are acceptable.** Ideas for inclusion are as follows:

- Define new vocabulary words (NOT ONES ALREADY DEFINED IN A GLOSSARY).
- Label literary techniques (simile, metaphor, personification, allusion, hyperbole, oxymoron, etc.).
- Ask questions.
- Underline meaningful quotes, *and* explain the value of each. (Underlining/highlighting without commentary will not count for credit.)
- Relate specific passages to your own life.

- Make predictions.
- Draw pictures in order to visualize descriptions.
- Summarize sections or scenes IN YOUR OWN WORDS.



Sample Page of Effective Margin Notations