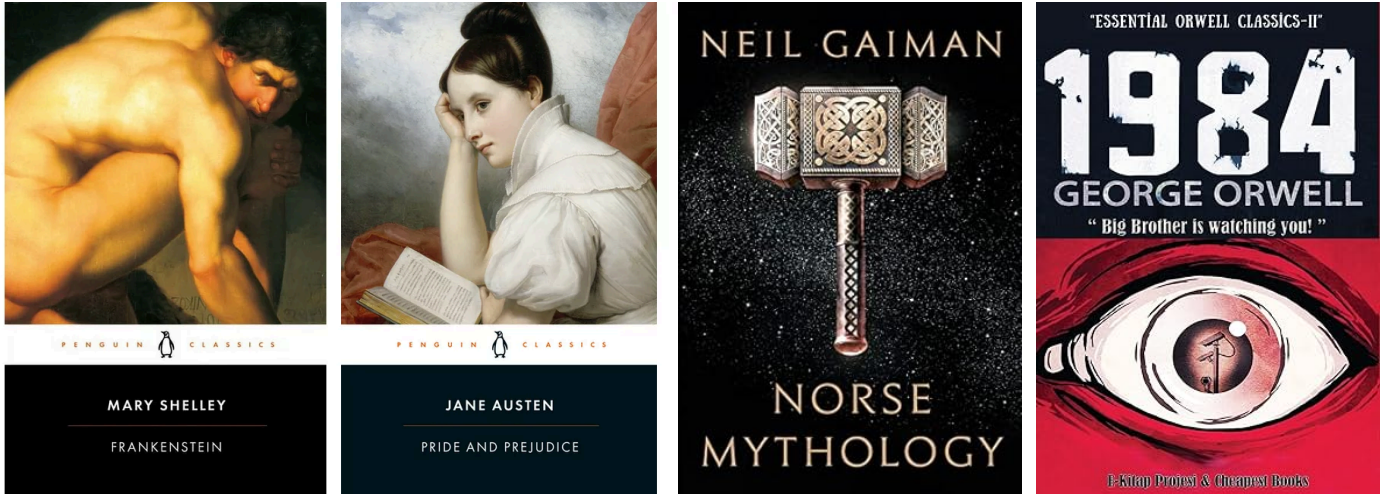


ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 12

summer reading 2024



Choose one of the books above to read and annotate for your upcoming 12th grade English class. These books are available online for free in the form of a PDF, except *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman.

Assignment: Annotating for Theme

As you read your chosen book, your task is to identify a theme and annotate any passages, quotes, or characters that embody that theme. Annotations are notes or comments that you make in the margins of the book and in your chart. They help you engage with the text and deepen your understanding of the theme.

Annotations Assignment: You need at least 20 annotations for your novel. Create a chart on Google and include the chapter and page number, the theme, the quote, and then the analysis. Refer to the example listed below. The completed chart will be due to turnitin.com on the first day of school. You will be able to access it while you are writing your essay.

Steps to Annotate:

- 1. Choose a Theme:** Select a theme that you find interesting or relevant in the book. Think about what the author is trying to convey through the story. See common themes and questions to guide you down below.
- 2. Identify Passages:** Look for passages or quotes that directly or indirectly relate to your chosen theme. These can be moments of dialogue, descriptions, or actions by the characters. Pay attention to any symbolism or metaphors that contribute to the theme.

3. **Annotate:** Write down your thoughts, observations, and questions in the margins of the book or on Post-its, but remember to record them in your chart. Additionally, highlight or underline the passages that are significant to the theme in your book. Consider the following questions:

- How does this passage contribute to the theme?
- What does it reveal about the characters or their motivations?
- How does it connect to the overall message of the book?

4. **Reflect:** After you finish reading the book, take some time to reflect on your annotations. Consider how the theme is developed throughout the story and how it impacts the characters and their actions. Think about any changes or growth that occur as a result of the theme.

Remember, annotations are personal and subjective. They are meant to help you engage with the text and develop your own understanding of the theme. Be sure to bring your annotated book to class as we will discuss and share our findings.

Example of the chart:

| Chapter/Page | Theme | Quote | Analysis |
|----------------------|------------|--|--|
| Chapter 1/ page 5 | Friendship | “I desperately need a friend who would have sense enough not to despise me as romantic, and affection enough for me to endeavour to regulate my mind” (Shelley 5). | This quote displays Walton’s desire for a friend. He is trying to find the Northwest Passage and is alone. His aloneness sets up the idea that the major characters all might desire friendship at some point. |
| Chapter 2 | | | |

Common Literary Themes in British Literature

British literature is rich with a variety of themes that explore the human condition and offer insights into society, culture, and individual experiences. Here are some common literary themes found in British fiction:

1. Love and Relationships

Love and relationships are often central themes in British literature. Stories explore the complexities of romantic love, familial bonds, and friendships. Examples include unrequited love, forbidden love, and the challenges of maintaining relationships in the face of societal expectations.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the theme of love and relationships contribute to the development of characters and their motivations?
- What does the portrayal of different types of relationships reveal about the society in which the story is set?

2. Social Class and Inequality

British literature frequently delves into the theme of social class and the disparities between different societal groups. It explores the struggles and conflicts arising from class divisions, as well as the impact of social status on individuals' lives and opportunities.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the theme of social class shape the characters' experiences and interactions?
- What commentary does the author make about the effects of social inequality on society?

3. Identity and Self-Discovery

Many British literary works explore the theme of identity and self-discovery. Characters often embark on journeys of self-exploration, grappling with questions of personal identity, cultural heritage, and the search for meaning and purpose in life.

Guiding Questions:

- How do the characters' journeys of self-discovery contribute to the overall themes of the story?
- What does the exploration of identity reveal about the human experience and the search for self?

4. War and Conflict

War and conflict are recurring themes in British literature, particularly in works set during historical periods such as World War I and World War II. These stories examine the devastating effects of war on individuals and society, exploring themes of loss, trauma, and the human capacity for resilience.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the theme of war and conflict shape the characters' experiences and relationships?
- What insights does the author provide about the impact of war on individuals and society?

5. Nature and the Environment

British literature often celebrates the beauty of nature and explores humanity's relationship with the natural world. Themes of environmentalism, the power of nature, and the impact of human actions on the environment are frequently explored.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the portrayal of nature contribute to the overall themes and messages of the story?
- What commentary does the author make about humanity's relationship with the natural world?

6. Morality and Ethics

Morality and ethics are common themes in British literature, with stories often grappling with questions of right and wrong, good and evil. Characters face moral dilemmas and ethical choices, and the consequences of their actions are examined.

Guiding Questions:

- How do the characters' moral dilemmas contribute to the development of the story?
- What commentary does the author make about the complexities of morality and ethics?

7. Power and Corruption

The theme of power and corruption is prevalent in British literature, with stories exploring the abuse of power, political corruption, and the struggle for justice. These narratives often shed light on the flaws and vulnerabilities of those in positions of authority.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the theme of power and corruption shape the dynamics between characters and their interactions with society?
- What insights does the author provide about the consequences of unchecked power and the struggle for justice?

8. Loss and Grief

Loss and grief are universal themes that are often explored in British literature. Stories delve into the emotional journey of characters dealing with the loss of loved ones, the process of grieving, and the search for healing and closure.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the theme of loss and grief contribute to the emotional depth of the story?
- What insights does the author provide about the human experience of loss and the process of healing?

9. Coming of Age

Coming of age is a common theme in British literature, focusing on the transition from childhood to adulthood. These stories often depict the challenges, growth, and self-discovery that accompany this transformative period in a person's life.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the theme of coming of age contribute to the development of the protagonist?
- What insights does the author provide about the universal experiences and challenges of growing up?

10. Social and Political Commentary

British literature frequently serves as a platform for social and political commentary. It explores societal issues, critiques prevailing norms and values, and offers insights into the political landscape of different time periods.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the theme of social and political commentary contribute to the overall message of the story?
- What insights does the author provide about the society and politics of the time period in which the story is set?

These themes provide a glimpse into the diverse range of topics explored in British literature. They offer readers an opportunity to engage with complex ideas and gain a deeper understanding of the human experience.