

ENGLISH III SUMMER READING FOR SILLIMAN INSTITUTE 2018–2019

Dear Students:

The book you choose to read over the summer will serve as the basis for an in-class, one-hundred-point, five-paragraph essay. The mode of writing will be literary analysis. The focus of the essay is the process the author uses to develop a theme in the text. The following prompt will serve as the basis for the summer reading essay:

The theme of a literary work is its underlying central idea, or the generalization it communicates about life. As you read, think about the comment the author is making about his subject matter. What revelation about the behavior of human beings or the conduct of society, or insight into the human condition is the author attempting to convey throughout the novel? Write a well-organized essay that identifies a theme you believe the author conveys throughout the novel. How does the author use characters, events and literary devices to illustrate the theme? Use evidence from the text to support your analysis.

Students must illustrate an understanding of the structure of a five-paragraph essay by developing a central idea and a thesis statement, by creating fully-developed body paragraphs with specific examples from the book, and by including an introduction and conclusion. To aid you in completing your essay, you may use any original, handwritten notes you collect over the summer. Here are some guiding questions to help you along your way. I look forward to reading your responses to your chosen book in August.

Guiding Questions

1. What important idea or theme does this literary work convey?
2. What do characters *do* that helps illustrate this idea?
3. What do characters *say/think* that helps to illustrate this idea?
4. What *events* take place in the work that help to illustrate this idea?
5. Are there any recurring images or clusters of images? Do these images support the idea or theme that you find in the work?
6. What does the narrator say that helps to illustrate this idea?

Planning your Essay

1. Determine the theme.
2. Form a thesis statement.
3. Use an outline to organize your thinking and your writing.
4. Use a minimum of two (2) direct quotes from the text to support the main idea of each body paragraph in your essay. Don't rely on the quotes to explain themselves. Lead your reader into the quote, comment on the quote, and show how the quote supports your main idea.

Book Choices

SCYTHE BY NEAL SHUSTERMAN

In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed (“gleaned”) by professional reapers (“scythes”). Citra and Rowan are teenagers who have been selected to be scythe’s apprentices, and—despite wanting nothing to do with the vocation—they must learn the art of killing and come to understand the necessity of what they do.

Only one of them will be chosen as a scythe’s apprentice. And when it becomes clear that the winning apprentice’s first task will be to glean the loser, Citra and Rowan are pitted against one another in a fight for their lives.

THE RED QUEEN BY VICTORIA AVEYARD

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own.

To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction.

One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.