

## M.S. 936 Arts Off Third Summer Reading Assignment

### Incoming 8th Graders: "West Side Story"

To successfully complete this year's summer reading assignment, you will keep a journal (on looseleaf paper) as you read. In this journal, you will record your reactions to the reading by using the questions below as your prompts. The journal will help you in several significant ways:

- English teachers use the summer reading assignment as the basis for a grade worth 5-10% of your quarter one average.
- You can improve your critical thinking and close reading skills through journal responses.

Use the prompts below as the basis for your journal entries. You must respond to at least **five** of the prompts for credit. **Do not summarize the book.** Summaries will not be accepted for credit.

#### SUMMER READING JOURNAL PROMPTS

- **Date each entry**
  - **Respond to at least five different prompts of your choice**
  - **Fully develop with examples and explanations of the examples**
  - **Each response must include textual evidence cited with the page number**
  - **Each response will be at least a half page and no longer than one page in length**
1. How are the characters developing? Do you dislike certain characters? Do the characters change over the course of the story? How are the events or other characters influencing or motivating the characters?
  2. Are there recurring themes, ideas, images, or symbols? Why do you think the author is repeating them? What do you think of the author's decision to repeat them?
  3. What are the conflicts in the play? Why are these conflicts developing? Are these conflicts internal (within the characters) or external (from outside sources)?
  4. Can you relate to any of the characters? Do parts of the play remind you of yourself or others? Why? Can you feel what any of the characters are feeling?
  5. Write a letter to one of the characters. Include three specific events of which the character was a part. Comment on the character's response to events or offer advice. Ask questions.
  6. Evaluate the writing style of the author. What are the sentences, word choice, or descriptions like? Does the style help the story line? Could the style be improved? How?
  7. What is the author's tone towards his or her subject? What two words best define the tone of this play? What scenes, episodes, or examples are examples of the author's tone?
  8. What is the mood created in the reader by this play? What examples best reveal the mood of this play?
  9. If you could be one of the characters for one day, who would you be and why? Who would you definitely not be and why? Explain your choices.
  10. What would you change in the story? How would you improve it?
  11. Select a passage and annotate it for literary elements or figurative language. Then after you annotate it, explain why you chose this selection over others.

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Summer Reading Rubric					
	20 points	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points
Journal Response 1	Response is <b>specific</b> and <b>richly</b> developed; refers to <b>strong</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>fully</b> developed; refers to <b>appropriate</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>partially</b> developed; cites an example from the text, but the <b>example may not connect completely</b> to the question; provides <b>documentation</b>	Response <b>lacks specific examples</b> from the text; response is <b>general; no documentation</b>	Shows little or no evidence that the student read the text thoughtfully OR student did not respond to the prompt
Journal Response 2	Response is <b>specific</b> and <b>richly</b> developed; refers to <b>strong</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>fully</b> developed; refers to <b>appropriate</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>partially</b> developed; cites an example from the text, but the <b>example may not connect completely</b> to the question; provides <b>documentation</b>	Response <b>lacks specific examples</b> from the text; response is <b>general; no documentation</b>	Shows little or no evidence that the student read the text thoughtfully OR student did not respond to the prompt
Journal Response 3	Response is <b>specific</b> and <b>richly</b> developed; refers to <b>strong</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>fully</b> developed; refers to <b>appropriate</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>partially</b> developed; cites an example from the text, but the <b>example may not connect completely</b> to the question; provides <b>documentation</b>	Response <b>lacks specific examples</b> from the text; response is <b>general; no documentation</b>	Shows little or no evidence that the student read the text thoughtfully OR student did not respond to the prompt
Journal Response 4	Response is <b>specific</b> and <b>richly</b> developed; refers to <b>strong</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>fully</b> developed; refers to <b>appropriate</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>partially</b> developed; cites an example from the text, but the <b>example may not connect completely</b> to the question; provides <b>documentation</b>	Response <b>lacks specific examples</b> from the text; response is <b>general; no documentation</b>	Shows little or no evidence that the student read the text thoughtfully OR student did not respond to the prompt
Journal Response 5	Response is <b>specific</b> and <b>richly</b> developed; refers to <b>strong</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>fully</b> developed; refers to <b>appropriate</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation ( <b>page number</b> )	Response is <b>partially</b> developed; cites an example from the text, but the <b>example may not connect completely</b> to the question; provides <b>documentation</b>	Response <b>lacks specific examples</b> from the text; response is <b>general; no documentation</b>	Shows little or no evidence that the student read the text thoughtfully OR student did not respond to the prompt
<i>Extra Credit</i>	<i>Response is <b>specific</b> and <b>richly</b> developed; refers to <b>strong</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation (<b>page number</b>)</i>	<i>Response is <b>fully</b> developed; refers to <b>appropriate</b> examples from the text; response provides documentation (<b>page number</b>)</i>	<i>Response is <b>partially</b> developed; cites an example from the text, but the <b>example may not connect completely</b> to the question; provides <b>documentation</b></i>	<i>Response <b>lacks specific examples</b> from the text; response is <b>general; no documentation</b></i>	<i>Shows little or no evidence that the student read the text thoughtfully OR student did not respond to the prompt</i>

Total Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments: