

SUMMER 2021 READING ASSIGNMENT FOR RISING SOPHOMORES

THE ASSIGNMENT

1. Read Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*
2. Complete your Commonplace Book entries: 5 entries, **evenly spaced throughout the novel**
3. Take a unit test over *To Kill a Mockingbird* during the first week of school in August

COMMON-PLACE BOOK INSTRUCTIONS

Buy yourself a nice notebook for **Commonplace Book entries****.

A **Commonplace Book** is a collection of interesting passages that you find as you read. They may be sharp bits of dialogue, funny details, vivid imagery, interesting diction, unusual vocabulary, figurative language, or really anything you find interesting: stuff you like, stuff you hate - anything noteworthy about the author's style. So much of literature is not just about what happens in the story; it's about the **way** in which the author tells the story.

Each common-place entry should include the following:

1. **Number** (1-5 or more...)
2. **Brief context** (can just be a few words) including the page number of the selection.
3. **The passage copied out NEATLY in its entirety**. Can be as short as a few words or as long as a few sentences... as much as you need to demonstrate its language qualities. (Note: can be typed or hand-written, but must be LEGIBLE.)
4. **Some analysis of the style of the passage** - for its humor or tragedy or dialogue or vocabulary or similes or metaphors or insults or ... whatever. These should be **3-5 complete sentences**. Try to use as many literary terms as you can. See the list on the back of this sheet for some ideas of literary terms.

** You may also do this assignment digitally if you wish, in Google Docs. If you do choose to write digitally, I expect all entries to be neatly formatted like the examples below.

EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENT COMMONPLACE ENTRIES (FROM RUDOLFO ANAYA'S *BLESS ME, ULTIMA*)

Bless Me, Ultima Entry #1	Context and page # Antonio and Ultima sitting in the hills, eating prickly pears (41)
	Passage "Ultima," I asked, "why are they so strange and quiet? And why are my father's people so loud and wild?" She answered, "It is the blood of the Lunas to be quiet, for only a quiet man can learn the secrets of the earth that are necessary for planting - They are quiet like the moon - And it is the blood of the Marez to be wild, like the ocean from which they take their name, and the spaces of the llano that have become their home." (41)
	Commentary & analysis In this passage, Anaya makes use of <u>similes</u> to help explain the differences between the two sides of Antonio's family. Ultima tells him that his Luna side - a name which also means moon, a <u>symbol</u> that reflects their quiet nature - is "quiet" because they need to hear the earth they farm. On the other hand, the Marez side - <u>symbolized</u> by the ocean they're named after - is wilder and more untamed. We also get a better sense of Ultima as a <u>dynamic character</u> , who has valuable insight into life.

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Bless Me, Ultima, Entry #2	Context and page # p. 111 - Antonio sees the golden carp for the first time
	Passage “The huge beautiful form glided through the blue waters. I could not believe its size. It was bigger than me! And bright orange! The sunlight glistened off his golden scales. He glided down the creek with a couple of small carp following, but they were like minnows compared to him.” (111)
	Commentary & analysis Antonio’s description of the golden carp uses vivid <u>imagery</u> to help paint a picture for the reader of the majesty of this semi-magical creature. Using <u>diction</u> like “glistened” and “glided,” Anaya also makes use of <u>alliteration</u> to help emphasize the otherworldly nature of this huge fish. All of these literary devices signal to the reader that the golden carp is more than just a fish: it’s a <u>symbol</u> of Antonio’s struggle with faith/what he believes is divine and what is not.

SOME TERMS TO USE AS YOU’RE WORKING ON YOUR COMMONPLACE BOOK:

- **Syntax**
 - Declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, imperative
 - Rhetorical questions
 - Punctuation –(colons, semicolons, dashes) and capitalization
 - Repetition of words
 - Parallel structure
- **Tone & Diction**
 - Diction – high, low, middle, specific, general. Try to use an adjective with each type.
 - Tone – sarcasm, praising, critical, ludicrous... try to select the best adjective to use with the tone.
- **Point of view**
 - 1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person?
 - Does it change? Who is the audience?
- What does the selection of detail reveal?
- Does the narrator use allusions effectively?
- **Figurative language**
 - Simile & metaphor
 - Personification
 - Imagery
 - Symbolism
- **Character**
 - Static/dynamic character
 - Direct/indirect characterization
- **Setting**
 - Time
 - Place
 - Social world
- **Plot**
 - Exposition, Rising action, climax, falling action, etc.