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## Summer 2020 Required Reading

## British Literature 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Part I:** Read and annotate<sup>1</sup> the two works listed below. In the first week of school, you will take a test on these books. Good annotations in your books will help you on these assessments.

*The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

- *The Great Divorce* is not a typical book. It is a kind of fable--it communicates truth through some pretty unbelievable situations. Especially in the beginning of the book, you will find yourself wondering what in the world is going on! This is because you are hearing this story from a narrator who is himself confused. Embrace his confusion because as he comes to understand new truths, so will you.

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

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<sup>1</sup> To *annotate* a text means to take notes on the pages of a text while reading. It is a way of engaging with and entering into an author's art and ideas. The goal is to have a rich, satisfying, and thought-provoking reading experience. To annotate wells means to *thoughtfully* and *frequently* do the following as you read:

- underline and/or star key sentences (thesis statements, important topic sentences of sections, etc.)
- circle and define any words that you do not know yet
- note transitions to help you map out the structure of the book's flow
- ask questions in the margins (example: "Is this true?" "What's his evidence?" "Why is this character angry?" "This symbol seems important; what's it mean?")
- make comments about your own thoughts about / reactions to the text (example: "This character is crazy!" "I should tell Ellen about this study." "This character reminds me of me. Hmmm." "Interesting!!" "Weird." etc.)
- identify key symbols, and speculate on their meaning
- speculate on the book's theme as you go
- at end of each chapter, write bullet summary of what happened

As readers annotate, they often develop an annotating system of their own. You will learn what works for you. For now, the important thing is to read all your summer assignments with pen or pencil in your hand, and take time to "talk back" to the text as you go by writing in your book.

## **Part II: Compare and contrast novel to film**

After reading *Jane Eyre*, watch the 2011 film version of this novel directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, starring Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender. Then answer the following questions. Each answer should be approximately 5 to 7 sentences and should be typed, doubled-spaced, MLA format. Each question is worth 10 points.

1. Identify an unimportant change made by the film's director. Explain the effect of this change and why that effect is not important. These changes may include an added scene, omitted scene, and/or scenes that were altered.
2. Identify an important change or omission made by the film's director and explain why it is significant. Do you agree with this change? In what way does this change alter the story?
3. Give two other examples of how the film is different than the book.
4. Overall, which do you prefer: the film or the book and why?