

2011 Summer Reading Assignment: C.P. English 4

(Essay must be turned in to your English 4 teacher on the first day of school)

PHS English Department Summer Reading Philosophy: In conjunction with Plainfield High School's stated mission to help students develop into lifelong learners, the PHS English Department requires students to complete an independent reading project over the course of each summer. Summer reading assignments are designed to be rigorous, yet flexible enough to accommodate each student's individual needs and interests. Each summer reading assignment includes a writing piece which will engage students' critical thinking skills. All summer reading work correlates directly with course curricula, introducing students to important themes and concepts that will be further explored in their upcoming English classes.

Students must read one of the following books:

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

Essay Prompt: An internal conflict is a conflict that exists inside the mind of a character. For example, the character could be struggling to overcome a lack of self confidence, make peace with a traumatic event from his/her past, etc. Read any one of the texts above, and write a 3-4 page essay analyzing the internal conflicts faced by the book's protagonist, and the effect these conflicts have on the character's development. Essays must be written in MLA format and contain at least three direct quotations from the text. When crafting your essay, you may want to consider each of the points below:

- What internal conflict(s) does your protagonist struggle with? How do these conflicts affect the character's life and behavior?
- How does the character change over the course of the text? What role do internal conflicts play in the evolution of the character?
- During what scenes from the text are the character's internal conflicts most visible? Can you identify any specific "turning point" moments in the text where the conflict changes or begins to be resolved?
- Is the character able to overcome his/her internal conflict? Why or why not?

If you have any questions regarding this assignment, please contact Mr. Farrish by e-mail at the following either of the following addresses: Farrishj@Plainfieldschools.org or Mrfarrish99@hotmail.com