Sophomore English - Honors
Summer Reading Questions

Required Text: Great Expectations - Charles Dickens

Consider the following questions while you read the novels and be prepared to discuss them in class. You should be able to refer to specific examples from each novel. You will also be required to either take a quiz and/or write an essay.

1. The story opens with an unusual encounter between Pip and two escaped convicts. What kind of relationship do the two convicts seem to have?

2. What evidence suggests that Pip’s benefactor is Miss Havisham?

3. Miss Havisham seems to encourage Estella’s haughty attitude toward Pip; she murmurs to Estella, “Break their hearts...and have no mercy.” What do you think she means?

4. In a way, Satis House is a symbol of Miss Havisham. How has she made it reflect her own state of mind?

5. In Dickens’ novels, it is not unusual for unexpected relationships between characters to be revealed at the end. How does Great Expectations follow this pattern?

6. Wemmick’s tiny home in Walworth is a castle defended against the city. How does the home life of John Wemmick resemble that of today’s suburbanite?

7. Throughout the novel, Dickens deals with the contrast between appearance and reality, illusion and substance. Mr. Jaggers tells Pip: “Taken nothing on its looks; take everything on evidence.” Where in the novel has Pip been influenced by “looks” rather than evidence?

8. The climax of a novel is usually the most exciting part of the plot. Which incident would you identify as the climax? How does Dickens build suspense as he leads up to the climax?

9. Which of Dickens’ two endings do you prefer? Why? Which do you think is most faithful to the nature of the characters involved?

10. While ill with fever, Pip realizes that “his great expectations had all dissolved, like our own marsh mists before the sun.” How does this statement sum up all that Pip has learned? In your own words, state what you think is the overall theme of Great Expectations.
Consider the following questions and prompts while you read the novel and be prepared to discuss them in class. You should be able to refer to specific examples from the novel. Remember to highlight and annotate the novel. You will also be required to take a quiz and/or write an essay.

1. Find examples of foreshadowing, personification, metaphor, allusion, and simile; discuss their relevance to the story’s theme.

2. Identify Gothic elements in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

3. Identify and discuss internal conflicts for the three characters in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

4. Define verbal, dramatic and situational irony; give an example of situational and dramatic irony in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Additionally, defend your selection.

5. Give an example of indirect characterization in which Mr. Hyde’s actions or appearance reveal his character.

6. Discuss the metaphorical use of setting.

7. Be able to write theme statement for the following theme topics: the nature of evil and the duality of man.

8. Plot each chapter on a timeline. How does the non-linear method of narration affect the experience of reading the story?

9. Do the quasi-scientific ideas in the story make it more or less believable? How?

10. Finish the sentence and be able to discuss your question with your classmates. If I could ask one of the characters (or the author) a question, I would …