

**English 09**  
**Summer Reading Assignment 2017**

**Part 1**

In order to keep up your reading skills and to prepare yourself for a rigorous year of reading and writing, you are required to read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and one other book from the list attached to this sheet. This assignment must be brought to your English class on September 8, 2017. The assignment will be graded as follows:

- *The Color Purple* assignment will count as a project. Projects account for 25% of your overall grade.
- In addition you will be quizzed on *The Color Purple*. Quizzes account for 15% of your overall grade.
- Your free choice book Questionnaire will count as a class assignment. Class assignments account for 25% of your overall grade.

Your answers must be typed using 12pt. Times New Roman/Times with one inch margins all around and a 1 tab indent on all paragraphs. Please also bring the book with you on the first day of class.

1. In about 2 or 3 paragraphs summarize the plot of this novel in your own words. Remember that all plots have an exposition, rising action, a climax, falling action and a resolution. Try to cover all these points in your summary.
2. This is a first person narrative; Celie tells the story herself. Does her telling the story help you to understand it better or would it have been better for the author to have told the story? Be specific: refer to definite things that happened in the story to support your opinion and use page numbers.
3. How would you describe the relationship between Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and his father, and the relationship between Harpo and Mr. \_\_\_\_\_? Be specific - refer to definite things that happened in the story to support your opinion.
4. Discuss Celie's relationship with either Nettie or Mister. Does her relationship with this person help or hinder her? Be specific - give examples.
5. Write in detail about **any 3 characters** in the book (except the character you wrote about in your answer to question # 4) Who is the character? Describe them. What are their most important characteristics? (Not just looks - personality and attitudes too.) Explain why this person is important in the story. Be specific - give examples.
6. Why do the Olinka not identify with Samuel, Corrine, and Nettie on the basis of race?
7. What does the way the community reacts to Shug's illness say about the status of women?
8. Choose one of the following themes or ideas in the book. Explain how the author brings out this theme. Refer to specific characters or events in your explanation.
  - a. Self-Discovery
  - b. Men, Women, and Gender Roles
  - c. Violence and Suffering
  - d. Race and racism
  - e. God and Spirituality

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**Part 2: Questionnaire**

Read any one of the following books. When you finish, you may answer the questions about the book on the "Summer Reading Book Questionnaire" which is attached or type your answers and bring your printed work to school on the first day of class.

Please choose a book you have not yet read.

*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

*Son* by Lois Lowry (Better if you read *The Giver* first)

*Silver Sparrow* by Tayari Jones

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

*Kindred* by Octavia Butler

*Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers

*The Coldest Winter Ever* by Sister Souljah

*Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki

*The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois

*Houston Briar Rose* by Jane Yolen

*Mules and Men* by Zora Neale Hurston

*The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

*The Book of Phoenix* by Nnedi Okorafor

*The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin

*Jacob Have I Loved* by Katherine Paterson

*Paper Towns* by John Green

*The Street* by Ann Petry

*Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell

*Crescent City Girls: The Lives of Young Black Women in New Orleans* by LaKisha Simmons

**A note on plagiarism:** plagiarism is copying the work of another person without proper acknowledgement. There are two parts in the definition: **copying** and the **absence of proper acknowledgement**. As a result, it gives an impression to an ordinary reader that the work is the original work of the author when in fact it was copied from some others' work. The idea underlying plagiarism is very simple: if you appropriate the work of another person, you should give proper recognition to that person.

Plagiarism covers "any other form of assessment." It covers tests, homework, take-home examinations, assignments, projects, and other forms of coursework. Copying does not necessarily mean copying word for word. Closely paraphrasing or substantial copying with minor modifications (such as changing grammar, adding a few words or reversing active/passive voices) is still copying for this purpose. It is not so much the form of the copying that is important, but the substance of what is copied. It does not matter what the nature of the source is. It may be a book, an article, a page from the internet, or simply an assignment of another student. ***If you are found to have plagiarized, you will receive a 0 on your assignment and parents/guardians will be contacted.***

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**Part 2: Questionnaire**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Reading Book Questionnaire**

What is the setting of this book? (When and where did it take place?)

Name and identify (tell who they are) the main characters in this book.

Choose one of the characters you just named and describe in detail what he or she was like.

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Make a list of five important things that happened in the book.

Choose one of the events you just listed and explain in detail why it was important.

Give two or three reasons why you did or did not like the book.