Summer Reading Assignment
Dual Credit English Literature and Composition / English 1301

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For your summer reading assignment, you will read and annotate one of the following novels:

1. *Swamplandia!* by Karen Russell
3. *Foreign Gods, Inc.* by Okey Ndibe
4. *Island Beneath the Sea* by Isabel Allende
5. *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer

The summer reading assignment will be uploaded as a Word document when we return the first week of school and set up turnitin.com accounts, so you must type the assignment. Each of your responses should be completed in your own words*** Include quotes from the text to help you fully explain your answer for each question. Mark the page number as well!

**Summer Reading Novel Questions**

Complete these 10 questions for the novel you choose. Make sure you answer all questions thoroughly and in complete sentences.

1. Explain the meaning of the title. (NOTE: If the meaning of your title is obvious, like *Silas Marner*, then give an extended meaning. Explain why it would be appropriate.)

2. What is the most significant conflict in the book? Explain in detail using examples from the work.

3. Identify the protagonist. List three (3) physical characteristics. Identify three (3) personality traits. Provide one example from the story to support each personality trait. (NOTE: Do not try to repeat yourself by saying "kind, nice, and sweet" as personality traits. Each trait must be distinctly different.)

4. Describe the setting in the following terms:
   a. Year
   b. Season of the year
   c. Amount of time the book spans
   d. Place where most action occurs
   e. Cultural background of characters
5. What is the main theme of your book? (A complete statement related to a universal truth, human nature, human experience, etc. For example, “How a person presents themselves to others can reveal their true identity.” Do not confuse a topic with a theme. A topic is one word. A theme is a complete statement.)

6. What message do you think the author wants the reader to understand about the theme?

7. Write the last sentence of your book. Explain how the progression of the novel leads up to that sentence. Is this sentence appropriate as "the last sentence" of your book? Why or why not? Offer an alternate sentence.

8. Is the novel based upon the workings of the heart (meant to affect you emotionally) or of the mind (meant to make you think)? Explain why using at least three (3) examples from the novel.

9. With which character do you most identify? Why? Explain, using examples from both the character's life and your life. If there are none, explain the differences between yourself and the most opposite character from you using examples from the character's life and your own.

10. How would your book be different if the main character were of the opposite gender? Assume that significant others would change genders as well, if that is a factor. Explain how this change would or would not affect your story.

If you have questions about this assignment, email me BEFORE school commences. I may be traveling, so it might be a couple of days before I respond. The expectation is to read and annotate over the summer break. Happy reading!

***Review the Westside Honor Code and Houston Community College policy on plagiarism.