

10th Grade Honors British Literature

Summer Reading

All Students: Select one book from each column for a total of two books to read this summer. See abstracts and assignments below.

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Brave New World</i> , Aldous Huxley	* <i>Jane Eyre</i> , Charlotte Bronte
<i>Utopia</i> , Thomas More	<i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> , Thomas Hardy
<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> , Robert Louis Stevenson	* <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde

Book Abstracts:

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley: Written in 1931 and published in 1932, *Brave New World* is set in London of AD 2540 (632 A.F. in the book), the novel anticipates developments in reproductive technology and sleep-learning that combine to change society. The future society is a living embodiment of the ideals that form the basis of futurism.

Utopia, Thomas More: Written (originally in Latin) in 1516 by Sir Saint Thomas More, *Utopia* is a frame narrative primarily depicting a fictional island society and its religious, social and political customs. The name of the island is derived from Greek words which literally mean "no-place land, non-existing place." One interpretation holds that while Utopia might be some sort of perfected society, it is ultimately unreachable. Despite modern connotations of the word "utopia," it is widely accepted that the society More describes in this work was not actually his own "perfect society." Rather he wished to use the contrast between the imaginary land's unusual political ideas and the chaotic politics of his own day as a platform from which to discuss social issues in Europe.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson: A novella written by the Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson and first published in 1886, this story is about a London lawyer who investigates strange occurrences between his old friend, Dr. Henry Jekyll, and the misanthropic Mr. Edward Hyde. The work is known for its vivid portrayal of a split personality in the sense that within the same person there is both an apparently good and an evil personality, each quite distinct from the other. The novella's impact is such that the phrase "Jekyll and Hyde" has come to mean a person who is vastly different in moral character from one situation to the next.

Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte: Published in 1847, this novel is a first-person narrative of the title character, a poor English orphan characterized by her plainness, honesty, and intelligence. The reader moves with Jane through her literal journey from life with her cruel aunt to Lowood School to Thornfield Hall, but also through her inward struggle to find independence and happiness.

Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy: First published in 1891, this novel follows the story of Tess, the eldest child of uneducated, rural peasants, John and Joan Durbeyfield. A story examining social class and criticizing elements of modernism, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* challenges social mores of the time period through the trials of the protagonist.

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde: First premiering on 14 February 1895 at the St. James's Theatre in London, the play's humor derives in part from characters maintaining fictitious identities to escape unwelcome social obligations. It contains witty dialogue and satirizes some of the foibles and hypocrisy of late Victorian society. It has proved Wilde's most enduringly popular play.

Product Options – Choose 1 product to create per book (2 total).

You must create **one** from **each** category (A and B)

Category A:

1. **Cartoon** – Create 10 cartoon drawings (in sequence) that show significant events in the novel. Under each cartoon, write a few lines of explanation. Drawings must be in polished form (no erasure marks, spears, cross-outs, wrinkles, etc.), each approximately 5" x 5" square on sturdy plain white paper. If you color your drawings (optional), use only colored pencils or crayons – no markers. Be prepared to defend your choices of events in terms of the significance to the overall work.
2. **Timeline** – Make a creative timeline of major events in the novel. Be sure that the divisions on the timeline reflect the sequence of events in the plot. Be clever as you illustrate the ways subplots weave in and out of the main plot. Use drawings, magazine cutouts, or clip-art to illustrate events along the timeline. Include a written explanation of each event. Be prepared to explain why you chose the events on your timeline. Be thorough. This project should reflect the same time and effort as the others.
3. **Scrapbook** – Create a scrapbook for one of the characters in the novel/ play. Think about what newspaper clippings, magazine articles, ticket stubs, photographs, and other memorabilia the character would collect if he were to make a scrapbook. Your final product must include 10 substantial items and written explanations of each. Be prepared to defend your choices during a short presentation.
4. **Power point presentation** – Create a power point presentation which provides a mini-lesson on the novel/ play. It should include more than just basic information; incorporate brief background info about the author, setting (time AND place), backgrounds, important quotations, and explanations of a few key events in the novel. Be sure to explain briefly the themes of the novel. Include pictures, maps, and charts as appropriate. You will present your power point lesson to the class.
5. **For the artistic** – If you have talent in creative writing, visual or performing arts, demonstrate your ability to think and create big ideas symbolically. In a poem, song, drawing, painting, sculpture, or acted performance, illustrate important themes from your novel. Be prepared to explain your work. A short (2-paragraphs, typed) explanation must accompany your piece.

Category B:

1. **Web site** - Using MS Publisher or other software, create a promotional website for your book. Include a home page, book summary page, setting page, author bio page, themes/ symbols page, and characters page. Create appropriate backgrounds, pictures, and text that would inspire a reader to buy the book. Be prepared to discuss your website during a short presentation.

2. **Letter** - Write a letter to the author of the novel/ play in which you specifically compliment (use quotations and page numbers) certain aspects of the work (style, characterization, use of symbolism, etc.) Include another section in the letter in which you raise specific questions and/or ask for clarification on points in the novel/play. Finally, tell the author your overall reaction to the work. Be prepared to explain and defend your choices in a short presentation. (2 pages double spaced, TNR, 12 pt. font)

3. **Critical Movie Review (only applies to books with *)** - After you read the novel/ play, watch the movie adaptation of the book. Write a short essay (2 full pages, typed, double-spaced, TNR, 12 pt. font) comparing and contrasting the novel and the movie. You will present your project as described in the other options on this page.

4. **Theatrical adaptation (only applies to novels)** - Take one scene from your novel and adapt it for a dramatic performance (stage or screenplay). It must accurately represent the novel. It should include dialogue and stage directions (instructions for actions). It should be a scene that would take about 5-10 minutes to perform. Choose wisely - make sure it is a scene that is significant to the novel. Although you may use direct quotes from the novel, your script **MUST NOT** be just a copy of text from the novel; in other words, choose a scene that would both lend itself well to performance AND that allows you to adapt it from narrative form to script form. Your presentation will involve you directing some of your classmates in a performance or dramatic reading of the script.

Notes:

- **Not** all product options will work for **all** literary pieces; pick and choose wisely.
- **Any/All** text must be typed!
- Be ready to present and submit your work during the first week of school.