

American Literature Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Your American Literature Honors course is a survey of American Literature spanning from Native American and Colonial times through the modern era. Because there is no way that we could read EVERYTHING during the course of the school year, you will be required to read **one** book from the list below on your own during the summer as they will connect to several of the collections that will be covered throughout the year. After you have read the selected novel, you will have a writing assignment to complete from the list below. Your summer reading assignment will be due on **September 7th**. You are strongly encouraged to research each book before you decide to purchase and read it. Find a summary and see if it seems interesting to you. If not, select a different book.

Works to select from:

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Sherman Alexie

Their Eyes Were Watching God Zora Neale Hurston

Cane Jean Toomer

If Beale Street Could Talk James Baldwin

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail Cheryl Strayed

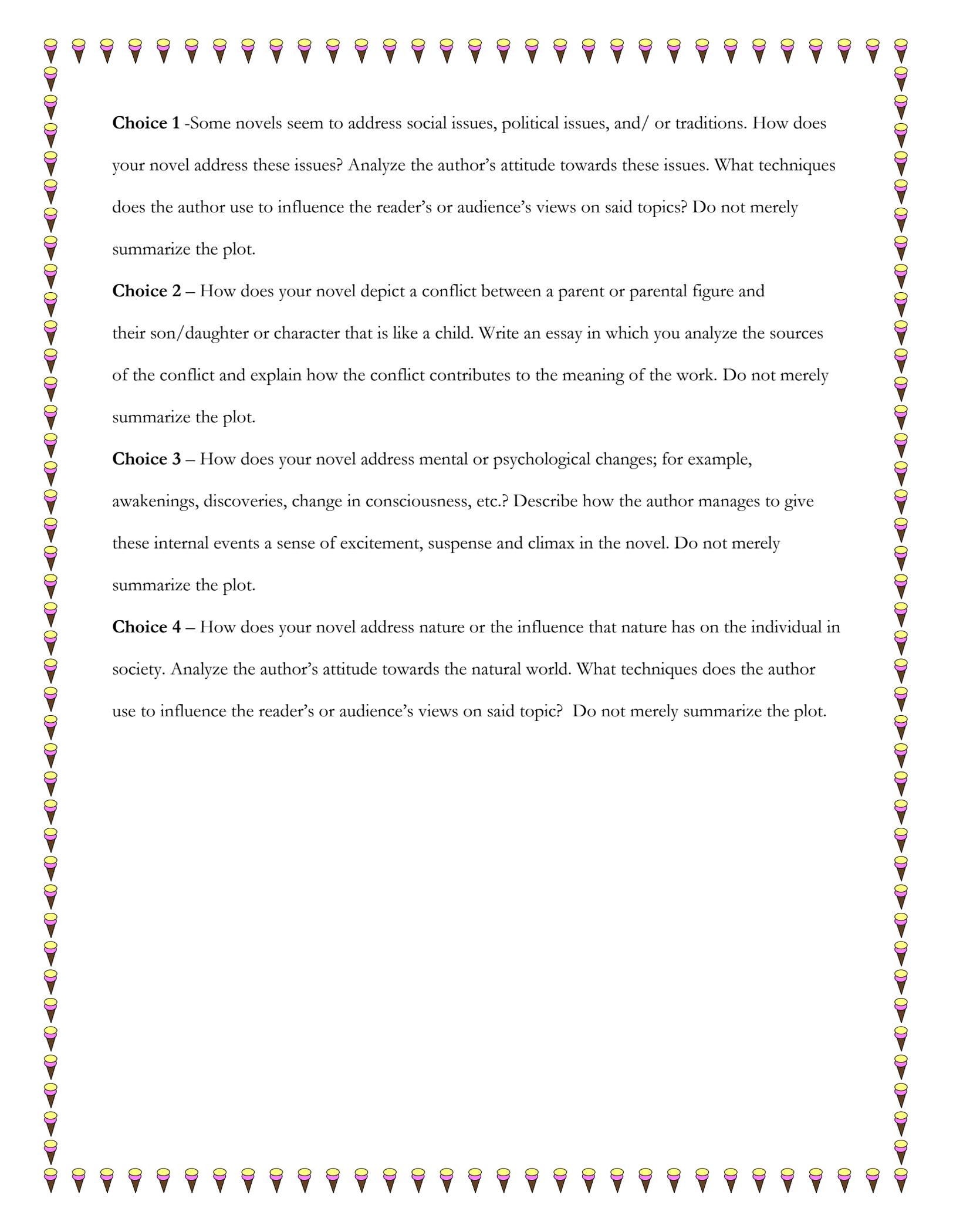
Walden Henry David Thoreau

The House of Seven Gables Nathaniel Hawthorne

Assignment List:

Make sure that your essay is typed using size 12 font, Times New Roman, and is double spaced. For the novel selected, you will write an **essay of approximately 500 words**

addressing one of the following:

A decorative border of ice cream cones surrounds the text. The cones are arranged in a rectangular frame, with the top and bottom edges being solid lines of cones, and the left and right edges being staggered lines of cones.

Choice 1 -Some novels seem to address social issues, political issues, and/ or traditions. How does your novel address these issues? Analyze the author’s attitude towards these issues. What techniques does the author use to influence the reader’s or audience’s views on said topics? Do not merely summarize the plot.

Choice 2 – How does your novel depict a conflict between a parent or parental figure and their son/daughter or character that is like a child. Write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Choice 3 – How does your novel address mental or psychological changes; for example, awakenings, discoveries, change in consciousness, etc.? Describe how the author manages to give these internal events a sense of excitement, suspense and climax in the novel. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Choice 4 – How does your novel address nature or the influence that nature has on the individual in society. Analyze the author’s attitude towards the natural world. What techniques does the author use to influence the reader’s or audience’s views on said topic? Do not merely summarize the plot.