

Summer Reading 2010

English 10 CP

READ THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOOKS AND THE GUIDING QUESTIONS *BEFORE* YOU BEGIN READING EACH BOOK.

Keep the questions at hand as you read and take notes, in the books, if they are yours, or on paper. **Answers to the questions SHOULD NOT be written out.** Guiding questions are just to help students with more effective comprehension.

Assessment – first full day of classes:

You will be asked to respond to short answer questions, as well as objective questions.

***BLACK LIKE ME* (John Howard Griffin)**

***BLACK LIKE ME* is a true life account, written in journal form, of John Griffin's intentional submersion into the black culture of the South in 1959. Interested in how blacks were treated and commissioned by a black magazine to write an article about it, he literally changed his skin color and lived in the South as a black man.**

Traveling through the South, Griffin is shocked and dismayed at the treatment he receives as a black man. The racism he experiences during the birth of the Civil Rights Movement is eye-opening and painful.

Upon returning home and publishing his article, his experiment and findings are met with unexpected reactions.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- 1. What motivated Griffin to change the color of his skin?**
- 2. As Griffin travels through the deep South, what are some of the situations he gets into where he is clearly treated differently because of the color of his skin?**

3. How does Griffin assess the black community of the South? What does he observe about the way they are treated and their response?

 4. Upon returning home and writing his article for Sepia magazine, he is viewed as a traitor to the white people. Explain.
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The Pearl (John Steinbeck)

Abstract: Kino, a young Mexican Indian pearl diver, finds a great pearl and dreams of a better life for his poor family. He soon learns that money often causes new problems rather than solve old ones.

Author: John Steinbeck (1902-1968) was born in Salinas, California in 1902. He worked as a laborer during the Depression. *The Pearl* was written after Steinbeck made an extensive journey to Mexico's Baja peninsula in the late 1930s with a scientist friend to study the region's folklore, mythology, and ecology. He is also the author of *Of Mice and Men*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden*, and others. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. His works deal with the human struggle to maintain dignity in the face of social injustice and/or loneliness.

Guiding Questions:

- What different things does the pearl symbolize?
- How is "poison" used both literally and figuratively?
- How is Kino's race exploited by others?
- The novel traces the progress of Kino's soul or spirit, using the pearl as its symbol. How do he and the pearl change throughout the book?
- How does the novel show the central theme of anti-materialism – that human happiness can not be bought by material wealth?