

Name: _____

English I/II - Summer Assignment

Hello Incoming Freshmen!

Congratulations on your graduation and for your acceptance into The Cinema School! I look forward to meeting all of you in September! Throughout your freshman year, I hope to provide you with an academic experience that, though rigorous, will also be thought-provoking, eye-opening, and most importantly, fun! But your first year of high school is about much more than that; it is important to use this year to build familiarity with the expectations present as you progress through your educational careers, and develop the skills necessary in order to thrive and succeed as high school students. With this in mind, I ask that you complete the following assignment over the summer.

English I and II will require that you engage with a number of texts throughout the year, and though they are very different, they are bound by one core focus: The notion of *identity*. There are many factors that shape a character's - and thus, a human's - identity. Familial values, cultural expectations, internalized emotion shifted towards external action, and the role of the surrounding environment in shaping the above three examples all play a part in influencing and ultimately determining how a character will ebb and flow over the course of a text, much in the same way that a human will interact with the world around him/her throughout his/her lifetime. Today, literary authors and academic researchers alike explore the concept of identity and the factors that shape it, in an effort to determine what element has the greatest impact on the affected person.

Throughout the year, units and their associated tasks will be anchored by the factors listed above, as our class delves into elements of identity and how they are represented in the works we engage with. One of the primary literary devices that we will focus on throughout the year is how authors utilize *characterization* in order to convey their ideas regarding identity. The definition of characterization is as follows:

“Characterization is a literary device that is used step by step in literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story.”

It is in the initial stage where the writer introduces the character with noticeable emergence and then following the introduction of the character, the writer often talks about his behavior; then as the story progresses, the thought-process of the character. The next stage involves the character expressing his opinions and ideas and getting into conversations with the rest of the characters. The final part shows how others in the story respond to the character's personality.

Over the summer, I would like you to practice the skills of characterizing the figures you have met in literature before, as well as compiling evidence in order to assess their roles. Think back to all the books that you've read in your lifetime, and pick your **THREE FAVORITE CHARACTERS** that you've ever seen. Whether they all come from the same book or different books is up to you, but the main concern is that you enjoy writing about them! For each character, fill out the charts on the following pages - one chart per character. This will be a valuable opportunity to prepare for the year to come! This assignment will be due on Thursday, September 15. If you ever find yourself having difficulty or just want to ask questions, then please don't hesitate to email me at tstein@tcs-nyc.org.

Once again, congratulations, and I can't wait for the opportunity to teach you!

Best regards,
Mr. Stein

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CHART #1

Character Name: _____

Book Title: _____

How the character is introduced (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How the author describes his/her behavior (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
The character's thought process (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
The character's opinions (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How the character interacts with other characters in the story (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How other characters in the story respond to his/her personality (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	

ANALYSIS QUESTION: What message is the author trying to convey by including this character in the story? In other words, what is the point of this character's existence?

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CHART #2

Character Name: _____

Book Title: _____

How the character is introduced (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How the author describes his/her behavior (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
The character's thought process (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
The character's opinions (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How the character interacts with other characters in the story (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How other characters in the story respond to his/her personality (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	

ANALYSIS QUESTION: What message is the author trying to convey by including this character in the story? In other words, what is the point of this character's existence?

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CHART #3

Character Name: _____

Book Title: _____

How the character is introduced (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How the author describes his/her behavior (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
The character's thought process (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
The character's opinions (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How the character interacts with other characters in the story (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	
How other characters in the story respond to his/her personality (be sure to include a quote with the page number!)	

ANALYSIS QUESTION: What message is the author trying to convey by including this character in the story? In other words, what is the point of this character's existence?
