

## Summer Reading

**S**laughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

This is the story of a man who survives the bombing of Dresden in World War II and alien abduction.

**A** short piece of Literary Criticism (one professor's opinion about the novel).

- One is about Slaughterhouse-Five.

*I would read this AFTER reading the text; otherwise, it will give everything away.*

## Summer Writing

**I**n the essay, I am looking for a) what you see as the meaning of the complete work--the theme; b) how well are you able to use evidence to support your idea about the theme. The attached rubric shows how the essay will be scored.

**F**or the essay...

- you will want to quote from both the work itself and the literary criticism.

In great literature, no scene of violence exists for its own sake. Choose **one** scene of physical or psychological violence from the Slaughterhouse-Five (there are many; choose wisely). Explain how the scene contributes to the meaning (theme) of the whole work.<sup>1</sup> (2-3 pages **MAXIMUM**)

*Here is how I would organize...*

- Intro: briefly describe the scene you have chosen, then explain how the scene links to one of the themes of the novel (e.g., what is the author saying about humans?).
- Body paragraph(s): Support your thesis with specific examples from both the text and the literary criticism (I like lots of quotes!)
- Conclusion: Restate your thesis and mull over the novel's deeper issues.
- Bibliography: You will want a bibliography because you are going to cite two texts in your essay. This does not need to be a separate page if you have enough room on the last page of your essay.

- *Enjoy the literature — it is simultaneously horrifying and beautiful—and be ready to dive in when you come back to school in August.* •

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<sup>1</sup> This is an open-ended essay question from an old AP test.

## **How to Cite Literary Criticism...**

### ***At the end of the essay***

#### *a plain old book*

Morrison, Toni. Song of Solomon. New York: Penguin Books, 1977.

#### *essay inside a book*

Walter, J.H. "Introduction to Henry V." Shakespeare: the Histories. Ed. Eugene M. Waith. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1965. 152-167.

#### *Reference book article (signed)*

Hornsby, Rogers. "The 1924 Cardinals." Encyclopedia Britannica. 1996 ed.

#### *Reference book article (unsigned)*

"Agincourt." World Book Encyclopedia. 1995 ed.

#### *Internet*

Author (last name first). "Title of Section." Exact internet address, date.

### ***Within the essay***

*(Barker 22)*.

- there is NO comma
- the citation always goes at the end of the sentence, no matter where the quotation is
- the citation is BEFORE the period

# Rubric for Summer Essay

## **I. Content**

- a. Does the writer create an articulate, strong, and clear statement of thesis at the outset of the paper?
- b. Does the writer develop the thesis with the appropriate number of examples?
- c. Did the writer choose to support his/her ideas with quotations that are not only well-selected, but also illustrative of the idea that the writer is trying to prove?
- d. Did the writer explain and analyze the examples in a way that is insightful, compelling, and thought-provoking?
- e. Did the writer develop the overall argument in a logical and powerful way that balances the general with the specific?

**/15 pts**

## **II. Organization and Structure**

- a. Does the introduction contain all of the required parts (grabber, transition, essay map, thesis)? Does it provide a deep, insightful introduction to the topic?
- b. Do the body paragraphs contain topic sentence, examples, explanations, conclusion sentence?
- c. Are the body paragraphs clearly tied to the thesis?
- d. Does the conclusion paragraph contain all of the required parts (essay map, restatement of thesis)? Does it provide a deep, insightful conclusion to the topic?

**/15 pts**

## **III. Overall Quality of Writing**

- a. Is the paper free of intrusive punctuation/spelling errors?
- b. Does the writer incorporate a variety of sentence structures into the work?
- c. Does the writer choose words in ways that enhance the overall quality and sophistication of the paper?

**/15 pts**

## **IV. Miscellaneous**

- a. Was the paper handed in on time?
- b. Is the essay presented neatly and professionally?
- c. Overall, did the writer seem to expend obvious time/effort toward planning, writing, and revising the essay as a whole?

**/5 pts**

**/50 pts total**