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English 4 Literary Criticism
Required Summer 2021 Reading Assignment
Due Date: Monday, August 23rd, 2021 (first full day of school)
Point Value: 50 points in the Skills Practice category (20%)

Welcome to English 4 (Literary Criticism)! We look forward to a year of learning and growth with you. For your summer reading assignment, you will need to purchase ONE of the books below. We will be using this book during the first few weeks of class, so plan on bringing it with you on the first day of school.

1. *The Accusation: Forbidden Stories from Inside North Korea* by Bandi
2. *Escape from Camp Fourteen: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West* by Blaine Harden
3. *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* by Barbara Demick

The Accusation is a revelatory work of fiction that exposes the truth of the North Korean regime. Set during the period of Kim Jong-Il's leadership, the seven stories that make up *The Accusation* throw light on different aspects of life in this most bizarre and horrifying of dictatorships.

Escape from Camp Fourteen is shocking true story of one of the few people born in a North Korean political prison to have escaped and survived.

Nothing to Envy follows the lives of six North Korean citizens over fifteen years—a chaotic period that saw the death of Kim Il-sung, the rise to power of his son Kim Jong-il (the father of Kim Jong-un), and a devastating famine that killed one-fifth of the population.

Part One (30 points)

Written essay

Your essay should be about 500 words long (2 double-spaced pages, using size 12 Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins). Your essay will test your reading and writing skills and ask you to address the following SAT reading skills: big picture/main points; little picture—details; inference; function of a literary technique; author technique; and data interpretation.

In this MELCON-style essay, include a brief introduction paragraph at the beginning, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion at the end. The introduction should have a thesis

statement and each body paragraph should have a topic sentence. Each body paragraph should also have *at least* one quote from the book, which means there should be at least three quotes in your essay.

Your essay should answer the following questions:

- What was the theme of the book? (See below for clarification.) This should address the big picture/main idea of what the book is about.
- The book falls under the category of protest literature. Explain how this serves to protest against the North Korean regime. Why did the author write this book? What does the author imply? What was the author's technique? In other words, address the author's tone, style, voice attitude, and/or perspective. For whom did the author write this book? Identify a literary technique that the author used and explain its effect on a reader. Please provide evidence to support answers to these questions. (You do not have to answer every single question.)
- What have you inferred about the subject from reading the text. Please provide evidence by quoting passages from the text to support your inference.
- What is a life lesson from this book? This can be in your conclusion.

What is Theme?

Think about a major theme that is represented in the novel. Once you have selected your theme, explain how this theme evolves within the novel. Your response should be at least one paragraph (at least 5 sentences), and it should be supported with specific information from the text. In other words, use specific examples to establish how the author communicates this theme to the audience.

Help for evaluating the theme of a literary work:

Themes help readers answer the question: What does a story express about the universal human experience?

Every story has at least one theme. A theme is a revelation shown through the characters' struggles and triumphs about life. A theme in a short story may occasionally be revealed in a direct sentence through a character's thought or declaration, but most often, a reader must infer the theme of the work after considerable thought.

How does a reader infer a theme from a story? Always ask questions as you read:

- Why is this situation included in the story?
 - What is the main idea about this situation? Does it show fear? Or love? Or change? Or strength?
 - Is this a central conflict throughout the story or in just one situation?
 - Why is this character important? Why is this symbol important?
 - What are the changes from the beginning to the end of the story?
- ✓ This assignment **must be typed in size 12 Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins.**
- ✓ 5% deduction per day for late work.

Part Two (20 points)

Reading Journal

- Choose FIVE chapters or short stories from the book for which you will write journal entries. Each journal entry should be about one paragraph of at least six sentences in length. You can use passages from your reading journal in your essay.
- Arrange your entries by the title of the chapter or short story.
- Label each entry with the page number(s) that inspires the thought.
- Your notes/entries should NOT center on what happens in the story, (i.e. plot), but instead they should focus on deeper connections such as:
 - Ideas that the reading inspires or makes you think about
 - Connections that you can make to other books, stories, or culture
 - Thoughts regarding what is happening to the character(s) - their actions, their words, their emotions
 - The language – the tone, the word choice, literary devices you notice, the way the author writes
 - Culture connections – thoughts on how the play comments on society
 - Patterns in either the language or the concepts (or both)

EXTRA Credit—Up to 20 points. Create a graph based on information in your book. In other words, you are representing something in the book in a graph. Then you will defend your graph in a short paragraph.

Written Essay Grading Rubric

Grade: _____/30

Writing Expectations	Effective - Shows solid understanding of writing trait - Shows sophisticated use of writing trait	Developing - Shows understanding of writing trait - Shows some evidence of acceptable use of writing trait	Emerging - Shows some evidence of writing trait	Not Yet - Needs evidence of writing trait
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is logical and clear. • The student’s writing indicates a clear, thorough insight and apt observations. • The student recognizes patterns and complex themes at work in the text. • Textual evidence (quotes from the novel) should be used to support ideas. 	9-10	7-8	5-6	1-4
Structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each paragraph should be logically organized (by topic or chronologically). 	4-5	3	2	1
Style: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The style should be engaging and professional. • Transitions and sentence structure should be clear and smooth. • Your voice as a writer should be natural, authentic, and credible. • Diction should be intentional and professional. 	4-5	3	2	1
GPS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grammar, punctuation, and spelling should be consistent with standard academic English writing. 	4-5	3	2	1
Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This assignment must be typed in size 12 Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. • The student’s name and the title and author of the novel are at the top of the page. 	4-5	3	2	1

Reading Journal Rubric: 20 points

Each chapter or short story is worth 5 points.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FOUR chapters or short stories.• Be sure to indicate the TITLE of the chapter or short story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FOUR paragraphs, each at least six sentences in length.• Each sentence addresses a thought in the column to the right → →	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ideas that the reading inspires or makes you think about2. Connections that you can make to other books, stories, or culture3. Thoughts regarding what is happening to the character(s) - their actions, their words, their emotions4. The language – the tone, the word choice, literary devices you notice, the way the author writes5. Culture connections – thoughts on how the play comments on society6. Patterns in either the language or the concepts (or both)
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