

SUMMER 2009

Medina Senior High School
Honors Sophomore Language Arts
Summer Reading Assignment 2009-10

Required Texts:

All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque
The Chosen, Chaim Potok
The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

Guidelines:

1. **READ AND FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.** They were written as they were for a reason. If you have any questions email Mr. Wetherbee at wetherbb@mcsoh.org or Ms. Smith at SMITHBAK@mcsoh.org. Over the summer we may only check our e-mail once a week or so. Be patient. You may not get a response immediately.
2. Students who fail to complete the summer reading *may not* drop this course! Students who wish to take this honors course must complete the summer reading unit. The grades on this course work and subsequent related work (i.e., tests, essays, etc.) will comprise *at least* 20% of your first quarter grade.
3. The required books are available at the public library. We recommend that you purchase your own unabridged copies of the books. There are limited copies of *The Chosen* available to sign out for the summer; however, it is recommended that you have your own copy in which to make notes. See Mr. Wetherbee (prior to the last day of classes before exams) in room 2203 if you would like to borrow a book for the summer.
4. Turn in all written work to the office by noon on Friday August 14, 2008. Late work will be docked 25% each day late. If you mail your assignment, it must ARRIVE at the school by noon, August 14, 2008—address to Medina High School ATTN: Ms. Smith/Mr. Wetherbee
777 E. Union St.
Medina, OH 44256
5. Each assignment must be stapled separately in the top left-hand corner and then all the assignments paper-clipped together. Do not use plastic covers, binders, folders, etc.
6. All work must be typed in black ink and double-spaced in 12-point type and in a normal font (such as Times New Roman). Margins should be one inch all around. Type your name, the class (HSLA), and the due date in the top left corner of the first page of each assignment. This format is standard MLA format.
7. Proofread all assignments for spelling and grammatical errors.
8. **Plagiarism, or trying to claim someone else's words or ideas as your own, will not be tolerated!** While discussion of the novels and assignments is encouraged, the work you turn in must be your own and must be written in your own words using your own ideas. Do not share or copy answers from any other student or take your answers from any secondary source such as Cliff's Notes or the Internet. The teachers are familiar with Cliff's Notes and websites that relate to the novels. Any cheating (taking OR giving of answers) will result in a zero on the assignment for all parties involved.
9. We will use the summer reading material extensively during the first few weeks of class and regularly throughout the school year. You will be tested over the novels (*The Chosen*, *The Joy Luck Club*, and *All Quiet on the Western Front*) at the very beginning of the school year.
10. Students must read and complete ALL written work for required texts.
11. Do not put off reading until the last minute, but don't read so early in the summer that you forget everything. It is strongly suggested that you take notes over the reading so you can study for the tests in the fall.
12. Have a great summer, enjoy the books, and come to class ready to work hard.

Assignment #1: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

- A. The Romans had a saying, *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*—It is sweet and decorous to die for the fatherland. Before you read the novel, write a 200-250 word essay (typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point type) responding to that statement. Provide at least one specific reason why you agree or disagree with this statement. You will not be graded on which side you take, but on how you support your opinion. Your essay requires a brief introduction (that clearly states your position) and a brief conclusion (that makes a strong statement about what you have written). Use specific examples to back up your opinions. The essay must be free of grammatical and spelling errors. This is the first impression you are going to make on your HSLA teacher, so make it a good one!
- B. While we are not collecting a character list for this novel, we strongly recommend that you maintain one. This will help you overcome one of the stumbling blocks of the novel and help you to pass the test. After each character's name, write a description of the character including specific details of physical or personality traits, the character's relationship to other characters in the novel, the role the character plays in the novel, and any other significant details. You will need to keep updating your descriptions as you continue to read the novel. Include all significant events with which each character is involved.
- C. It is also recommended that keep a reading journal. After each chapter (or each reading session or every 20 pages or so) write a couple paragraphs about what you just read. It could be a summary, a reaction, or a combination of the two. Another option would be to take notes as you read identifying significant events that occur in the novel. Along with a reading journal, another technique that is helpful is to create a graphic organizer, a kind-of timeline, of the significant events that occur in the novel along with a brief description of each. This will not be collected, but it will help you understand the novel and help you remember what you read. It would also provide you with something to study prior to taking the exam.
- D. As you read, make comments in the margins about what you are reading and your thoughts/reactions. Underline new characters, mark significant scenes with brief descriptive titles, and underline or highlight passages that express significant ideas (themes).
- E. When reading any work of fiction, pay careful attention to the elements of which it is composed—characters and how they change or develop, the setting and how it affects the work, the plot (what happens), conflict and its resolution, themes (ideas), point of view and how it affects your interpretation of the work, and style (how the author writes). When you are finished, or even as you read, you could create a study guide that examines each of these elements. This will not be collected.

All of these are suggestions not about how *to read* a novel, but how *to study* one. Find the methods that work for you. You do not need to do all of them, but it is strongly recommended that you do some, or at least one, of them. They will help you to understand and remember what you read so that you can be prepared for the exam and for the further study of the novels in class.

Assignment #2: *The Chosen*

A. List and explain eight Jewish customs/traditions/beliefs present in *The Chosen*. Include an explanation of how or where the custom/tradition/belief appears in the novel. Use the following as an example (but you may not use it as one of your eight). If you want to find out more about Jewish customs, check out the website www.jewfaq.org. Then, click on the Table of Contents. On the left side you'll see several general topics from which to choose. Number each response. Your response should identify the custom/tradition/belief as well as explaining what it is and how it is present/what role it plays in the novel.

1. The very Orthodox Hasidic sect of Judaism has a very strict dress code. They wear dark pants, white shirts, and black skullcaps. Their hair is closely cut except for long side curls. They also wear a traditional undergarment beneath their shirts. Attached to each of the corners of the garment are long fringes called tzitzit that come out above the belt and swing against their pants. They wear the tzitzit this way because they literally obey the Bible commandment *And ye shall look upon it* which pertains to the fringes. In *The Chosen*, Danny and his teammates who are all Hasidic, wear traditional Orthodox clothing including the tzitzit.

B. Once again, while it is not required and will not be collected, it is strongly suggested that you keep a character list, keep a reading journal, take notes (in the margins or in a separate notebook) as you read, and/or think about the elements of fiction work together to create meaning.

Assignment #3: *The Joy Luck Club*

A. **Reading Tip:** *The Joy Luck Club* is divided into 4 sections of 4 chapters each. Each section is prefaced by an intercalary chapter (you'll recognize them because they are in italics) that acts as an introducing and unifying metaphor for the 4 chapters that follow. As you read, think about how the italicized story relates to the 4 preceding chapters. Also, pay very careful attention to who narrates each chapter (the narrator changes each chapter). On the first page of each chapter, above the chapter title, the narrator is identified.

B. **Think about:** How does the narrator affect your understanding of and your reaction to the characters and events? You might even want to make a list of the narrators from 1-16. Do you notice a pattern? Why does Tan organize the novel this way?

C. **Assignment:** Included in this packet are four pages each divided into 4 boxes and a bar across the top that contains the title of the italicized introductory story. Each page corresponds to one of the four sections of *The Joy Luck Club* and each rectangle corresponds to one of the chapters in that section (4x4). In the space across the top of the page, write the title and provide a brief summary of the corresponding italicized story (e.g., in the area labeled "Feathers from a Thousand Li Away", write a summary of that italicized story). Next, in each of the four boxes, identify the title of one of the four chapters in that section, and answer the four questions. The questions are the same for all 16 chapters and are printed only in the first box in order to save space. In the second box, numbers are given that correspond to the 4 questions. After that, the boxes are blank. **Continue to answer the 4 questions for all 16 chapters.** You should number your responses, but do not rewrite the questions themselves. In the end, you should have a summarized the four italicized stories, identified the title of 16 chapters, and answer the same four questions for all 16 chapters. **YOUR RESPONSES MUST BE HANDWRITTEN.** You may use the back of the pages if absolutely necessary, but try to keep your responses within the space provided.

D. It is suggested that you keep a reading journal, take notes (in the margins or in a separate notebook) as you read, and/or think about how the elements of fiction work together to create meaning.

Things Fall Apart

A. There is no summer project to do with this novel, but we suggest you read it this summer to get a head-start on your assignments for the year. A second reading during the year will make the novel (like any novel) clearer and easier to study.

Title of Section: Feathers from a Thousand Li Away

(write a brief summary of the italicized story here)

A. Title of Chapter: The Joy Luck Club

1. Identify and describe the narrator (child? adult?) of the chapter. Include family relations.

2. When and where does the chapter take place?

3. Summarize the story (what happens in the chapter?)

4. Describe the relationship of the child and mother or how the relationship changes
OR what does the narrator learn in this chapter?

B. Scar

1.

2.

3.

4.

C. The Red Candle

1.

2.

3.

4.

D. The Moon Lady

1.

2.

3.

4.



Twenty-Six Malignant Gates:

A.
1.

2.

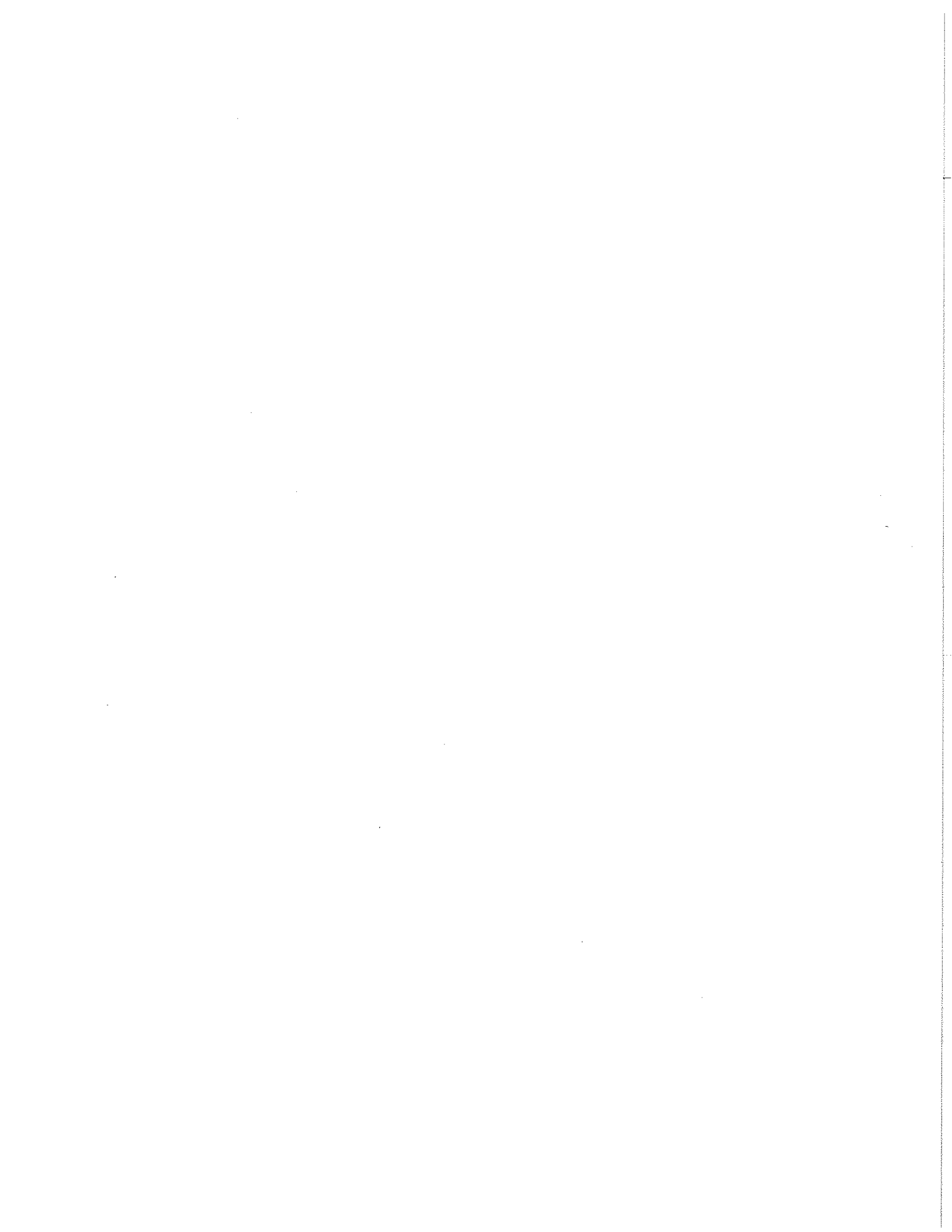
3.

4.

C.

B.

D.



American Translation:

A.
1.

2.

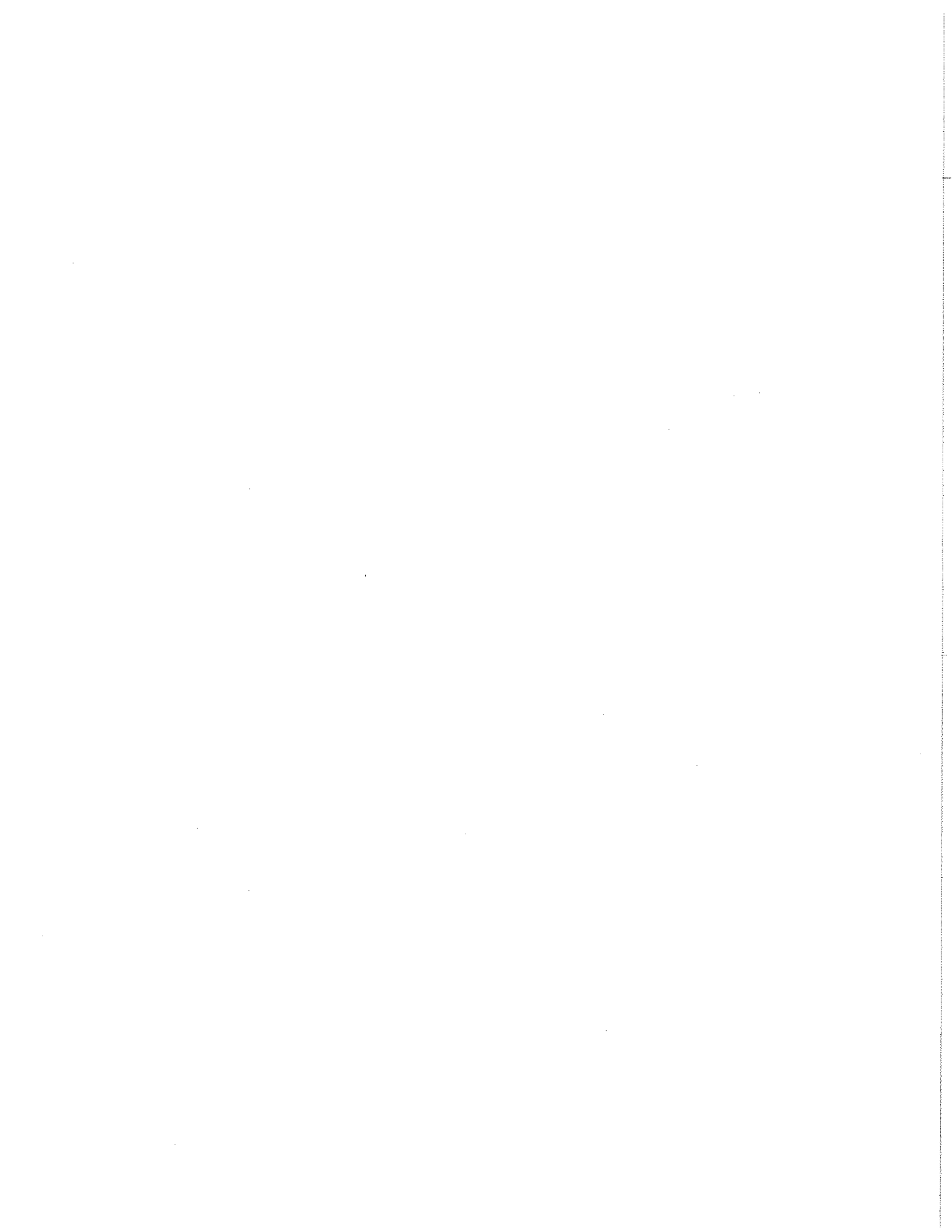
3.

4.

B.

C.

D.



Queen Mother of the Western Skies:

A.
1.

2.

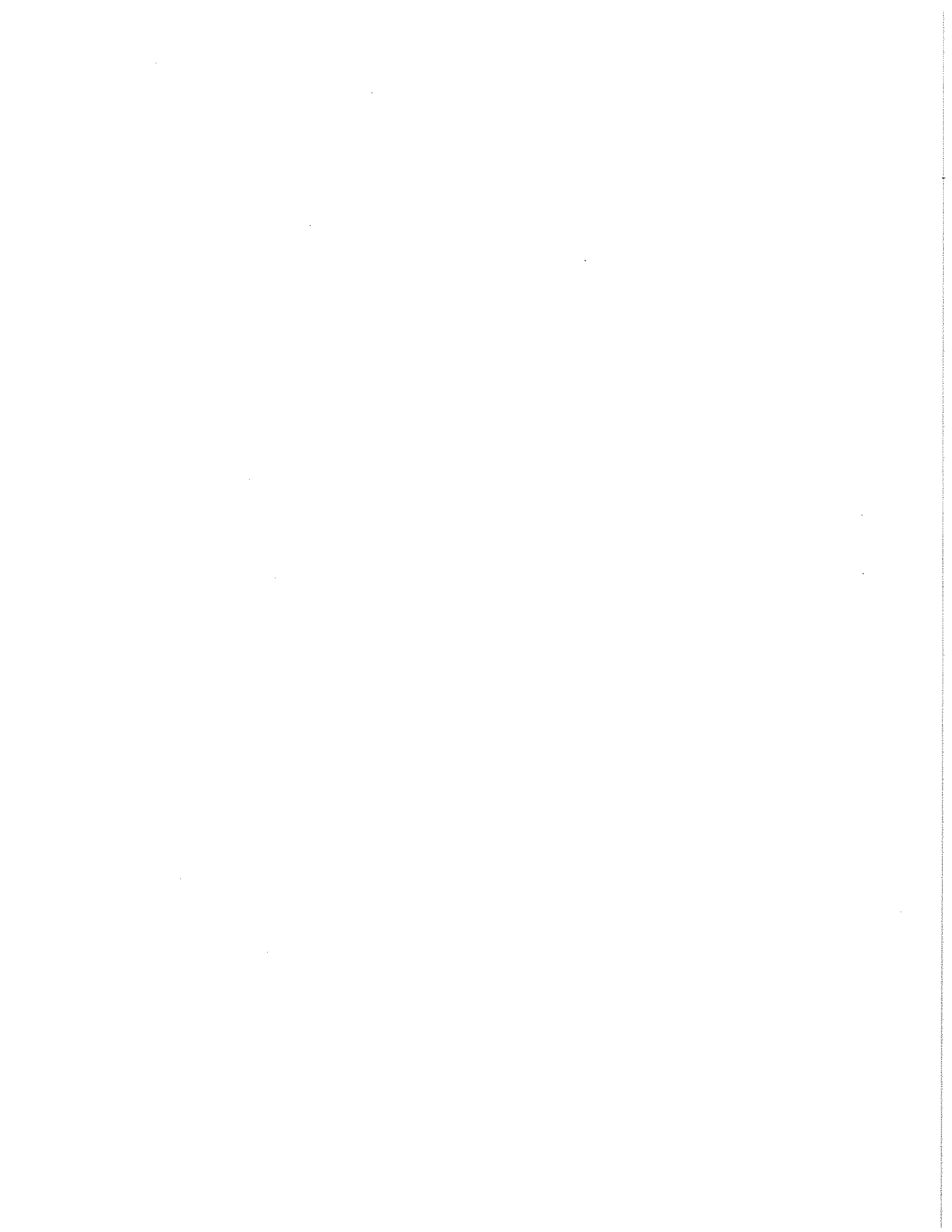
3.

4.

B.

C.

D.



Evaluation : Turn in the following evaluation sheets with your projects! Place it on top of all other work. If you do not submit the evaluation sheets, you will be docked ten points.

NAME _____

DUE FRIDAY AUGUST 14, 2009 – Late work will be docked 25% per day

_____ This evaluation sheet on top of all your work (missing -10)

All Quiet on the Western Front

_____ A) Pre-reading journal (20 points)

_____ Neat and professional appearance

_____ Followed directions

_____ Free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors

_____ Opinion supported

_____ Clearly organized with introduction and conclusion

The Chosen

_____ A) List of customs/ traditions/ beliefs (20 points)

_____ Neat and professional appearance

_____ Followed directions

_____ Free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors

_____ Contains eight well-explained examples

_____ Clearly organized

The Joy Luck Club

_____ A) Chapter summaries and questions-- 4 worksheets (60 points)

_____ Neat and professional appearance

_____ Followed directions

_____ Free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors

_____ All questions answered thoroughly/ includes specific details

_____ Answers show evidence of thought and understanding

Summary of what is to be turned in by Friday August 14, 2009:

1) *Your Evaluation Sheet*

2) *All Quiet on the Western Front*

A) Pre-reading journal

3) *The Chosen*

A) Traditions/ Customs/ Beliefs list

4) *The Joy Luck Club*

A) Four analysis worksheets (questions in boxes)

You will have tests over *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Chosen* and *The Joy Luck Club* during the first few days of school, so be prepared. You will be using the novels in class during the first couple of weeks.

