

Why do we have a summer reading assignment?

The key to being a great reader and a great writer is like riding a bike – it takes practice. It also takes exposure. How can one ride a bike without first seeing how it is done? Reading is not something we want you to do just during the school year; life-long learners are also life-long readers. Summer also provides time to enjoy uninterrupted reading and allows students to digest ideas prior to discussing and interpreting ideas in class.

The Novel

The Last Battle by C.S Lewis. Any edition.

Why has my teacher chosen this novel?

English 10 is a world literature curriculum; *The Last Battle* is the final installment in the famous Chronicles of Narnia fantasy series, which details the adventures of both humans and mythical creatures in a parallel world that acts as an allegory for Christians. *The Last Battle* is an allegory for the end times, and what we can expect as Christians. Therefore, it sets up perfectly for Biblical Immersion that can be important for us to discuss.

The Assignment

Step 1: Read and enjoy the novel!

Step 2: Annotate the Text, which will be turned in on the first day of school (details below).

Step 3: Write a *two-page* essay, which will be due on the first day of school (details below).

Annotations: What Do You Highlight?

If you feel like you have no idea what/how to annotate, start here:

- What do you **notice**? What jumps out at you as you read?
- What keeps coming up **again and again**? Are there any recurring themes/symbols?
- Can you **make a prediction** about what comes next based on what just happened?
- Can you **make connections** to yourself, the world, or other books?
- Are there significant **quotes** that add meaning to the text?
- Are you noticing any **figurative language** (similes, metaphors, sensory language, etc.)

Essay Prompt

Write an argumentative essay that argues for what you believe is the most central theme in the novel. **You must support your position with textual evidence.** Your essay should be written in MLA format (see link below for help) and you should not use any outside sources – novel only. *The only exception to this MAY be SOME use of biblical passages to aid in your analysis.*

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

When is the assignment due?

The novel and annotations should be completed by Thursday, August 10th, 2023. You will turn in your book with annotations and a printed copy of your essay when you come to class on the first day of school.

A Final Note:

This assignment is intended to challenge. It is also intended for me to see where each student is at the start of this year. If you have questions, email me. However, understand that this is intentionally vague – I want to see what you can do *independently*. Additionally, please understand that you will be expected to turn this in on the first day of school. It will be to your detriment if you do not come to class prepared. See you soon! 😊