

## AP Summer Reading: *Great Expectations* & one book of choice ☺

AP students should read and journal on one of the books listed below (do not choose a book you've read before ☺).

- ⇒ *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy
- ⇒ *The Cost: My Life on a Terrorist Hit List* by Ali Husnain
- ⇒ *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
- ⇒ *The Elephant Man* by Christine Sparks
- ⇒ *The Lord of the Rings* by Tolkien (recommend reading *The Hobbit* first. It's short ☺)
- ⇒ *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- ⇒ *King Lear* by Shakespeare

Keep an informal journal while you read on notebook paper. Each one should include at least 12 entries, each entry being at least one paragraph long (consider doing one entry per chapter). Topics covered in the journal should include your observations about the book as it unfolds: plot, character descriptions (how they appear, act, and think), symbols, your expectations for the ending, and any literary elements you notice (foreshadowing, themes, point of view), etc. These should be thoughtful responses, and not merely "fluff."

In addition, read *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens:

Answer the following questions *thoroughly* in MLA essay format in at least one full typed page. Please make sure to proofread well for proper grammar and punctuation usage, as well. These essays should be your own thoughts and analysis, not something copied or paraphrased from an online source. You **should not** use outside sources. This should be typed and printed.

1. Pick one symbol in the novel that is of particular importance and analyze how it functions in the book. Make sure to use specific examples, not generalizations. Remember to explain what the symbol represents and why it is important.
2. Address the issue of forgiveness in *Great Expectations*. Who (in the book) *should* forgive and who *does*? Who *should* be forgiven and by whom? Who *is* forgiven, and *should* he or she be forgiven? Based on what you have read, what is Dickens's opinion of forgiveness? Use specific evidence from the text to support your position.
3. What constitutes a gentleman during the time period of *Great Expectations*? Address Pip's need to be a gentleman, his desires, and the results. Who *IS* a gentleman in *Great Expectations*? What constitutes being a gentleman today? Use evidence from the text to support your conclusion.

Be prepared to write an in-class response about your books in the fall in addition to discussing them in class. The reading and journals should be completed by the first week of school.

I will be checking my email over the summer. If you have questions on any part of the summer reading assignment, please email me at [meredith.mente@northsidecharlotte.com](mailto:meredith.mente@northsidecharlotte.com).

Happy Reading!!