



May 2018

**TO: Academy Students and Their Parents**

**RE: Summer Reading Lists for next year's students of Combo Grade 10 American Studies- Literature: HONORS**

We are very excited that you will be joining **Combo Grade 10 American Studies Literature - HONORS** next fall. This summer, you are assigned to read the novel, *Slaughterhouse-Five* by **Kurt Vonnegut**.

The ISBN-10 is 0812988523.

While you read, you must keep a reader-response, or dialogic, journal. This reader-response journal will help you to explore various literary elements and techniques in *Slaughterhouse-Five*. The key to literary analysis is **close reading**. The most common close reading technique is to focus on key passages and write brief comments as you read. An extension of this technique is a **dialogic journal**. This journal is essentially a record of your "dialogue" with the book as you read it: the questions it inspires, its revelations, the passages that truly move you. On September 10, 2018 you will submit a journal of at least **10 entries that span the entire length of the novel. There must be an entry from each chapter of the novel!**

1. Set up your journal format (using Microsoft Word or another word processor) as a table (**11 rows, 2 columns**) with appropriate headings ("Excerpt" and "Response").
2. As you read, pick a brief section of text that jumps off the page for you. Choose one with which you can interact in a meaningful fashion, and copy it into the left-hand column. **Make sure to note the page number of the excerpt.** You can find a sample entry on the back of this page.
  - a. This excerpt may:
    - i. Represent writing techniques that you have a question about or admire.
    - ii. Show the use of a tone or style.
    - iii. Reveal an intriguing plot twist, climax or theme.
    - iv. Make an interesting comment on perspective and understanding.
3. Tracking a Trend: A Useful Journaling Technique
  - a. You may wish to use this journal to track a trend such as a motif (a symbolic element, like the use of a color) or character development (How does [character] change over the course of the novel?). I am not requiring this kind of restriction on your journal, but you may find it helpful.

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**ACS Athens Mission Statement:**

ACS Athens is a student-centered international school, embracing American educational philosophy, principles and values. Through excellence in teaching and diverse educational experiences, ACS Athens challenges all students to realize their unique potential: academically, intellectually, socially and ethically — to thrive as responsible global citizens.

**Accredited by: MSA-CESS, IBO, College Board**

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*Sample Entry: Jane Austen's "Mansfield Park"*

<b>Excerpt from Novel</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>“To the education of her daughters, Lady Bertram paid not the smallest attention. She had no time for such cares. She was a woman who spent her days in sitting nicely dressed on a sofa, doing some long piece of needlework, of little use and no beauty, thinking more of her pug than her children” (17).</p>	<p>This passage is an example of Jane Austen’s satirical style. Mrs. Bertram seems to be much like many middle to upper class women of her time. She is bored, unmotivated, and superficial. Because there is nothing of great importance happening in their lives, these women often have no care for what they can do for their families. This also shows that Fanny will have no comfort from Mr. or Mrs. Bertram. Picturing a lazy woman making ugly needlepoint and fussing over her ugly little dog is also funny even while it makes a significant point.</p>

4. After finishing the book and your journals, reflect on your responses and write a reflection on the following question: How does witnessing Billy Pilgrim in the context of different periods in his life help the reader develop a better understanding of him?

The reflection is to be submitted with your journal responses.