

English II A

Welcome to English II A,

My name is Ms. Gwinn and I will be teaching this course. I attended Grand Valley State University where I graduated Magna Cum Laude. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and psychology with an emphasis in secondary education. I have taught all over including a University World Colleges School in The Netherlands, Lighthouse Charter Academy, and Union High School in Grand Rapids. I joined Great Lakes Cyber Academy in January of this year and love it here! I am looking forward to getting to know all of you through webmails, calls, live lessons, field trips, and your work.

In this document you will be provided with: general course facts, directions for both papers, the full text of your Unit One story, a reading schedule for *Of Mice and Men*, and an example five paragraph essay for reference.

Live Lessons:

Live lesson attendance is not mandatory; however, Live Lessons are an excellent way to find answers to many common questions and problems. Live Lesson times will be sent out class-wide.

Office Hours:

This is a time for you to come and ask questions about the class that you are in. These count as a teacher contact and can be very beneficial. These will also be sent out class-wide.

Grading System:

Type	Weight
Test	25%
Portfolio	55%
Quiz	20%

Resets:

The purpose of resets is to help students learn and improve. I will allow up to two resets for most occasions. Unit exams may only be reset once. Final exams and pretests will not be reset.

Extra Credit:

I will provide an opportunity or two for extra credit throughout the semester. Please be prepared to work hard for the extra credit through knowledge building activities.

For this class you will be reading *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. This book can be read online. The full text is available as a downloadable PDF and a downloadable mp3 version on the school Weebly under the English link.

You should start reading this book immediately and need to be finished with the novel by Unit 2 lesson 5. There is a very helpful Lit Chart that will assist you in your reading of this novel that is posted to the class message board.

At the end of the class, you will be writing a paper based on information gained from this novel. While you are reading *Of Mice and Men* it is a good idea to take down notes about characters and quotes that you find interesting. We will also be having live lessons that review the content of the book. The live lesson schedule will be posted on the class message board.

In unit one you will also write a narrative paper. This narrative paper is from a character's point of view from "The Pomegranate Seeds" by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

The directions for both of the papers are below. Included in the directions for the unit 2 paper are your collaboration project directions. You should post to the message board and ask for a partner as soon as possible so you do not have to scramble for one at the end of class. Please note that these collaboration instructions are **different** from the ones provided in unit one lesson 2.

For this semester you will see a custom assessment in your gradebook and it will show that you are required to set up an appointment with me for a call sometime throughout the semester. This will count as a 100 point quiz. The form to webmail for appointment requests is attached to the welcome webmail.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. You are more than welcome to webmail or call me at 517-381-5062 ext 310. I am looking forward to a productive semester with you all!

Reading Schedule for *Of Mice and Men*

Unit One	
Lessons 1-5	Chapter One
Lessons 6-9	Chapter Two
Lessons 10-12	Chapter Three
Lessons 13-17	Chapter Four
Unit Two	
Lessons 1-3	Chapter Five
Lessons 4-5	Chapter Six

Your name

Ms. Gwinn

English IIA

The date written like this example: 24 October 2015

English II A Unit 1 Essay

At the end of Unit One, you are going to write a narrative essay based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story "The Pomegranate Seeds." After reading the original story, you will tell it again, this time from the perspective of a different character. (This assignment might be compared to a movie like *Vantage Point* or *Hoodwinked*.) As for all essays, this essay will be written in MLA format: 12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, one inch margins. Your paper needs a title and a proper header as seen at the top of this page.

After submitting your first draft, you will have an opportunity to receive feedback from your teacher before submitting a final draft.

This essay should: be five paragraphs in length, have at least two lines of dialogue, vivid description, and insight into your character.

The story is in the lessons, but it is at the bottom of this document all in one piece.

You need to submit the paper in the following steps:

1. Your rough draft to unit one lesson 15 in your grade book
2. **You will wait for my edits** (which will be attached to your rough draft comments) and you will apply my edits to your paper
3. You will turn in your polished piece to unit 2 lesson 16 in your gradebook

Your name

Ms. Gwinn

English IIA

The date written like this example: 24 October 2015

English II A Unit 2 Essay

In Unit Two you will be writing a paper based on information from *Of Mice and Men*. As for all essays, this essay will be written in MLA format: 12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, one inch margins. Your paper needs a title and a proper header as seen at the top of this page.

Prompt: Based on your research, identify and analyze a human rights issue in your novel and show how it relates to issues and affects people within the United States and one other country.

You will choose a human rights issue that is addressed in your novel. The human rights issue is up to you, but you may only choose one and it must be supported by selected quotes from the novel. To choose your human rights issue, you will select one from the list of Amendments which can be found at: <http://www.usconstitution.net/constquick.html>.

To complete the research component of this paper you are going to find three court cases (two from the United States and one from another country) that relate to the human rights issue that you choose. Some websites that will help you find court cases are listed here:

http://www.constitutionfacts.com/content/supremecourt/files/supremecourt_landmarkcases.pdf

<http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-informed/supreme-court/landmark-supreme-court-cases.aspx>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cases/topic.htm>

<http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php?lang=en>

When you are conducting your research remember to record information about your sources so that you can properly cite them in a works cited page.

Your essay format will be as follows:

Introduction:

- Hook (interesting start to your paper: relating quote, relating fact, VERY short story, or question)
- Connect hook to thesis

- Thesis

Body paragraphs (3 paragraphs)

- Paragraph 1 – first reason in your thesis supported with quote from novel
- Paragraph 2 – second reason in your thesis supported with quotes from court cases
- Paragraph 3 – third reason in your thesis supported with quotes from court cases

Conclusion:

- DO NOT START WITH “In conclusion”.
- Restate your thesis
- Quickly summarize your thoughts
- Leave your audience with one final thought – drive your point home

You need to submit the paper in the following steps:

1. Your rough draft with works cited page to unit two lesson 12 in your grade book
2. **You will wait for my edits** (which will be attached to your rough draft comments) and you will apply my edits to your paper
3. You will turn in your polished piece to unit 2 lesson 14 in your gradebook

Collaboration Product – The American Dream

The directions for this project can be found on the Weebly under the collaboration project tab.

There will be a collaboration project this semester; however, it will be different than the one on the course tree. Your collaboration project will be completed on the Weebly under the collaboration project tab. The directions and rubrics for this project are included under this tab as well. For your project, you will need to attach a screen shot of your original posting and submit it to the collaboration project portfolio. You will also screen shot your responses and submit them to the collaboration reflection portfolio.

To turn in:

Unit 2 lesson 16 Product: **answers to questions**

Unit 2 lesson 16 Reflection: **screen shots of responses to the work of peers**

"The Pomegranate Seeds"
from *The Tanglewood Tales* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Part 1

At the opening of our story, Mother Ceres is busy tending to the harvest of wheat, corn, rye, and barley; her daughter, Proserpina, begs to go to the seaside while her mother tends to the crops of the world. Mother Ceres hesitantly agrees but warns Proserpina, "The sea nymphs are good creatures, and will never lead you into any harm. But you must take care not to stray away from them, nor go wandering about the fields by yourself. Young girls, without their mothers to take care of them, are very apt to get into mischief."

After visiting with the sea nymphs, Proserpina does exactly what her mother feared—she wanders into the forest.

Innocently, she looked for and gathered beautiful flowers. One shrub was especially beautiful and seemed to grow new blossoms as Proserpina looked at it, almost as if to tempt her to come closer. It was so wondrous that she almost felt the urge to run away from it. She chided herself for her silliness and decided to pull the shrub and plant it for her mother.

As she pulled the shrub, a hole began to form and kept "spreading wider and wider, and growing deeper and deeper, until it really seemed to have no bottom; and all the while, there came a rumbling noise out of its depths, louder and louder, and nearer and nearer, and sounding like the tramp of horses' hoofs and the rattling of wheels. She soon saw a team of four sable (black) horses, snorting smoke out of their nostrils, and tearing their way out of the earth with a splendid golden chariot whirling at their heels. They leaped out of the bottomless hole, chariot and all; and there they were, tossing their black manes and flourishing their black tails, close by the spot where Proserpina stood."

Part 2

In the chariot, a gloomy but handsome man rubbed his eyes as if he had never seen the sunshine. When he saw Proserpina, he beckoned for her to come to him.

"Do not be afraid," said he, with as cheerful a smile as he knew how to put on. "Come! Will you not like to ride a little way with me, in my beautiful chariot?"

Proserpina's first thought was to call for her mother, but her voice was too quiet to be heard by anyone other than the richly dressed man in the chariot.

"Indeed, it is most likely that Ceres was then a thousand miles off, making the corn grow in some far distant country. Nor could it have helped her poor daughter for the stranger leaped to the ground, caught the child in his arms, and again mounted the chariot, shook the reins, and shouted to the four black horses to set off."

As they rode on, the stranger did his best to comfort her.

"I promise not to do you any harm. What! you have been gathering flowers? Wait till we come to my palace, and I will give you a garden full of prettier flowers than those, all made of pearls, and diamonds, and rubies. Can you guess who I am? They call my name Pluto; and I am the king of diamonds and all other precious stones. The one thing which my palace needs is a merry little maid, to run upstairs and down, and cheer up the rooms with her smile. And this is what you must do for King Pluto."

It is my opinion that even King Pluto had never been happy in his palace, and that this was the true reason why he had stolen away Proserpina, in order that he might have something to love, some sunshine in his dark world.

They were now on a dark and gloomy road, beyond the reach of sunshine.

"We are just entering my dominions . Do you see that tall gateway before us? When we pass those gates, we are at home. And there lies my faithful mastiff at the threshold . Cerberus! Cerberus! Come hither, my good dog!"

"Will the dog bite me?" asked Proserpina, fearing the three-headed dog. "What an ugly creature he is!"

"O, never fear," answered her companion. "He never harms people, unless they try to enter my dominions without being sent for, or to get away when I wish to keep them here. Down, Cerberus! Now, my pretty Proserpina, we will drive on."

Next they crossed over the River Lethe, a magical stream that makes people forget every care and sorrow. Pluto offered Proserpina a sip, which she refused.

"I had a thousand times rather be miserable with remembering my mother, than be happy in forgetting her. That dear, dear mother! I never, never will forget her. I will neither drink that nor anything else. Nor will I taste a morsel of food, even if you keep me forever in your palace."

To tempt Proserpina to eat a morsel and thereby trap her into staying forever, King Pluto sent for his cook who came up with a menu of sweets, seasoned meats, and rich pastries.

Part 3

"But my story must now clamber out of King Pluto' dominions, and see what Mother Ceres had been about, since she was without her daughter. We had a glimpse of her, as you remember, half hidden among the waving grain, while the four black steeds were swiftly whirling along the chariot, in which her beloved Proserpina was so unwillingly taken away. You recollect, too, the loud scream which Proserpina gave, just when the chariot was out of sight."

Mother Ceres raced to their home and throughout the countryside, carrying a torch day and night, looking for her precious Proserpina. Her torch burned bright with hope and flickered with grief, but she never stopped to rest. She became so distraught that she began to neglect her job of watching over the crops, and slowly the land began to die.

"At length, in her despair, she came to the dreadful resolution that not a stalk of grain, nor a blade of grass, not a potato, nor a turnip, nor any other vegetable that was good for man or beast to eat, should be suffered to grow until her daughter were restored. She even forbade the flowers to bloom, lest somebody's heart should be cheered by their beauty.

It was really pitiful to see the poor, starving cattle and sheep, how they followed behind Ceres, lowing and bleating, as if their instinct taught them to expect help from her; and everybody that was acquainted with her power begged her to have mercy on the human race, and, at all events,

to let the grass grow. But Mother Ceres, though naturally of an affectionate disposition, was now inexorable ."

"Never," said she. "If the earth is ever again to see any vegetation, it must first grow along the path which my daughter will tread in coming back to me."

Part 4

Everyone became so desperate that they petitioned the gods to intervene. Quicksilver , known for his speed, his short cloak, and his winged cap and shoes, and his snaky staff, was sent to King Pluto, in hopes that he might persuade him to return Proserpina to her mother.

Upon entering the dark dominion of the underworld, Quicksilver observed that "little Proserpina beheld this great king standing in his splendid hall, and looking so grand, and so melancholy (sad), and so lonesome, was overcome with a kind of pity. She ran back to him, and, for the first time in all her life, put her small, soft hand in his."

"I love you a little," whispered she, looking up in his face.

"Well, I have not deserved it of you, after keeping you a prisoner for so many months, and starving you besides. Are you not terribly hungry? Is there nothing which I can get you to eat?"

"In asking this question, the king of the mines had a very cunning purpose; for, you will recollect, if Proserpina tasted a morsel of food in his dominions, she would never afterwards be at liberty to quit them."

"No indeed," said Proserpina. "I have no appetite for anything in the world, unless it were a slice of bread, of my mother's own baking, or a little fruit out of her garden."

Pluto had his servants search the whole earth for fruit for Proserpina, but all they could find was one withered pomegranate. When they presented her with the fruit, Proserpina refused it at first, but could not resist and decided just to smell it.

"Dear me! What an everlasting pity!" Before Proserpina knew what she was about, her teeth had actually bitten it, of their own accord. Just as this fatal deed was done, the door of the apartment opened, and in came King Pluto, followed by Quicksilver, who had been urging him to let his little prisoner go.

Pluto spoke to his little ray of sunshine, "I can see plainly enough, that you think my palace a dusky prison, and me the iron-hearted keeper of it. And an iron heart I should surely have, if I could detain you here any longer, my poor child, when it is now six months since you tasted food. I give you your liberty. Go with Quicksilver. Hurry home to your dear mother."

Part 5

In a very short time, they emerged upon the surface of the earth. It was delightful to behold, wherever she set her blessed foot, there was at once a dewy flower. The violets gushed up along

the wayside. The grass and the grain began to sprout with vigor and luxuriance, to make up for the dreary months that had been wasted in barrenness. The starved cattle immediately set to work grazing, after their long fast, and ate enormously, all day, and got up at midnight to eat more. All the birds in the whole world hopped about upon the newly-blossoming trees, and sang together, in a prodigious ecstasy of joy.

Mother Ceres had returned to her deserted home, and was sitting hopelessly on the doorstep, with her torch burning in her hand when Proserpina came running, and flung herself upon her mother's bosom. The grief of their separation had caused both of them to shed a great many tears; and now they shed a great many more, because their joy could not so well express itself in any other way.

When their hearts had grown a little more quiet, Mother Ceres looked anxiously at Proserpina. "My child," said she, "did you taste any food while you were in King Pluto's palace?"

"Dearest mother," exclaimed Proserpina, "I will tell you the whole truth. Until this very morning, not a morsel of food had passed my lips. But today, they brought me a pomegranate and having seen no fruit for so long a time, and being faint with hunger, I was tempted just to bite it. The instant I tasted it, King Pluto and Quicksilver came into the room. I had not swallowed a morsel; but—dear mother, I hope it was no harm—but six of the pomegranate seeds, I am afraid, remained in my mouth."

"Ah, unfortunate child, and miserable me!" exclaimed Ceres. "For each of those six pomegranate seeds you must spend one month of every year in King Pluto's palace. You are but half restored to your mother. Only six months with me, and six with that good-for-nothing King of Darkness!"

Name

Header with last name and page number

Teacher Name

Double spaced heading

Class Name

Double spaced Times New Roman 12 point font

Date (example: 29 May 2010)

Hook: this time it is a quote that relates to the topic

Huck Finn Copes by Sleeping

Earnest Hemmingway notes, "I love sleep. My life has the tendency to fall apart when I'm awake, you know?" Hemmingway indicates that sleep is a place of safety for him and this realization is one that the character Huck Finn would strongly relate to. In the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huck Finn's body and mind allow sleep to overtake him at crucial moments; when one would think that sleep would be an impossible task. Huck Finn involuntarily implements this learned coping technique of sleeping in an attempt to weather the storms. Sleep is Huck Finn's way of escaping his fear and it gives his problems a chance to work themselves out on their own.

One-inch margins

Huck's father is a drunk who kidnaps Huck and keeps him locked up in a cabin in the woods leaving him trapped inside for stretches of time without adequate amenities. Huck reflects, "He got going away so much, too, and locking me in. Once he locked me in and was gone three days" (122). With a drunk for a father, Huck is forced to grow up quickly, and in Chapter Six, as he deals with his father; Huck is the one who has to act more like the fatherly figure. Huck narrates in Chapter Six, "While I was cooking supper the old man took a swig or two and got sort of warmed up" (123). His father was beginning his drinking for the day as Huck was preparing dinner for both of them. His father's inability to deal with life and all of its trials without alcohol is painfully apparent in Chapter Six especially.

The speaker of the quote is introduced and the quote is preceded by a comma. The quote is followed by a citation and then an explanation

The topic in the last sentence of one paragraph is related to the first sentence of the next paragraph or there is a clear transition.

Pap, Huck's father, took any money that Huck had on him spent it all on alcohol. Huck had six thousand dollars which was in the town judge's possession and it was also the object of Pap's attention.

Huck's father wanted this money so that he could buy enough alcohol to last him more than one day, but when the judge was making it impossible for him, Pap came back to the cabin furious. Huck retells the scene, "He drank, and drank, and tumbled down [...] by-and-by luck didn't run my way. He didn't go

sound asleep" (125). It is important to note that when Huck's father was not fully asleep, Huck was worried and said that luck didn't run his way. As the son of an alcoholic, Huck was well aware of the sobering effects that sleep had on a person, and when his father was "uneasy" in his sleep, he knew that it could mean that his father's drunken episodes were not done for the night (125). Nevertheless, Huck's body and mind attempt to escape the situation as Huck remarks, "I got so sleepy I couldn't keep my eyes open, [...] and before I knowed what I was about I was sound asleep" (125).

Huck follows his father's misguided lead, and tries to sleep away his fear in an attempt to let his problems with his father work themselves out. Unfortunately, for Huck, his father wakes up from his light sleep and begins chasing Huck around the cabin with a knife and Huck says that Pap was, "calling him the Angel of Death and saying he would kill [him]" (125). His father eventually got tired, and Huck observed that his father, "put his knife under him and said that he would sleep and get strong, and then he would see who was who" (125). Here Huck notices that sleep can be a time to strengthen and deal with things when a body is more able. Huck, however, does not take to his father's regimen right away, but he goes and gets his father's gun and points it at him saying that he would "wait for him to stir" (215). At this moment, crucial to Huck's survival, he falls asleep again in a second attempt to sleep away his troubles.

Sleep is Huck Finn's way of escaping his fear and it gives his problems a chance to work themselves out on their own. From watching his father get "blind drunk" on a daily basis, Huck knows

The entire paper remains in third

The word "said" is not over used and alternative s are implemented.

Thesis, usually restated, is the first sentence of the concluding

When a quote is shortened and part of it is taken out. The meaning is not changed and it is formatted with brackets and an ellipsis to indicate

better than to pick up drinking, but he did, perhaps subconsciously, pick up on the observation that when his father wakes up after falling asleep drunk, he wakes up sober and all better (125). It may seem ridiculous for someone to fall asleep at such a pivotal moment, like pointing a gun at one's father, but Huck has to deal with situations that no one should have to encounter, and he has to deal with them alone. Sleep is Huck's way of escaping his problems, and it is a chance for him to rest, to get strong, and to handle some more. This shows that Huck has learned the survival technique of sleeping until things work themselves out from his father. This is also Huck's way of doing what he has to do when it comes to his father, and as Huck said, I "saved myself" (215).



The last sentence of the concluding paragraph does not introduce new information. It drives home the point of the paper and it leaves the reader with a