

**English I Honors Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Due: First full day of school, Monday, Aug. 10**

*Typed book files will be required on all major works we read this year, including the summer reading books. Therefore, your summer reading assignment is to read each of the three assigned books: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, The Color of Water and Speak. Then, complete the book file as outlined below for each novel. Each book file will be worth 50 points and must be submitted to turnitin.com during the first week of school to verify the originality of the written work. Turnitin.com compares papers to ones written by other students as well as material available on the internet.*

*When writing about each novel, write in literary present, which means to write in present tense when discussing the action in a novel. For example, “Francie Nolan, the protagonist in A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, **lives** in Williamsburg.”*

*With the exception of question No. 1, all answers must be written in complete sentences. Following is the format for each book file:*

**Your Name**

**Ms. Carteaux**

**English I Honors**

**10 August 2009** *(These four lines are called an MLA heading and go in the upper left-hand side of the page. Use 1-inch margins.)*

**1. Title:**

**Author:**

**Biographical information about the author: State at least five facts you have found either from the book or through internet research.**

**Publication information: Year, publisher, location.**

**2. Critique:** Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

**3.** With which character could you most closely identify and why? If you cannot relate to any character, think of an event, setting or some other aspect of the novel and then answer the question.

**4. Characters:** List and describe the main characters in the novel. Classify them by the following character type.

***Dynamic character** - A dynamic character is a character in a work of fiction that encounters conflict and is changed by it. Dynamic characters tend to be more fully developed and described in detail.*

*Static character* - A static character is a minor character in a work of fiction that does not undergo substantial emotional change or growth.

5. **Setting:** There are four major components to the setting. Identify each one as explained below.

**Location** (Where does it take place?):

**Time period:**

**Physical description of the setting:**

**Social milieu:** (Milieu is one's surroundings, especially of a social or cultural nature. For example, in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, the family lives in poverty and is part of the lower class.)

6. **Quotes:** List at least four quotations from the novel that illustrate theme or demonstrate characterization. Then, explain why this quote is significant. Include an in-text citation with each quotation. This means you must include the author's last name and the page number at the end of the quotation.

7. **Social/Political/Philosophical Agenda:** Explain why you think the author wrote the book. Consider the following questions when you write your answer: What purpose or insight into society or human nature does this book offer? What contributions does this book make? What message or point do you think the author is trying to make?

8. **Point of View:** What is the point of view? Why does the writer choose a specific narrator or view?

*Point of view* refers to who narrates a story and how much that narrator knows. In a story told from the **first person point of view**, the writer chooses to have a character within the story narrate it, using the first-person pronouns *I* and *me*. This method of storytelling lets the reader see and know only what that character, the narrator, sees and knows. In a story told from the **third-person point of view**, the narrator is not a story participant. Third-person narrators can be classified as **omniscient or limited**, depending on how much they know. In the **omniscient point of view**, the narrator is all-knowing and so can describe every character's thoughts. By contrast, a narrator in a third-person **limited point of view** possesses limited knowledge, often confined to one or two characters.

8. **What is the critical problem or issue of this novel?** Identify the issue(s).

9. List and comment on the main **symbols** and **motifs** the author uses.

*Symbolism* is a device in literature where an object represents an idea.

A **motif** is a recurring element that has symbolic significance in the novel. Motifs are recurring structures, contrasts, or literary devices that can help to develop the text's major themes. The

*motif can be an idea, an object, a place, or a statement. For example, in To Kill A Mockingbird, the mockingbird is used as a recurring motif to symbolize innocence and victims of injustice throughout the novel. Therefore, a motif can be something that recurs to develop the theme in a novel. A motif differs from a theme in that a theme is an idea set forth by a text, where a motif is a recurring element which symbolizes that idea.*

**10. Lasting impression:** What will you remember most about this book? Why?