



## Sophomore Honors English Summer Assignment

### Step 1: Read and Annotate (Books will be collected and annotations graded at the conclusion of the unit.)

Read and annotate Khaled Hosseini *The Kite Runner*. Annotations should include highlighting of specific pieces of text and writing brief comments in the margins. Your annotations will assist you with various class discussions and assignments and should focus on:

- Bullying
- Role of books, literacy
- Friendship, guilt & redemption
- Fathers & sons
- Coming of Age
- Resilience
- Humanity/Inhumanity
- Discrimination, prejudice, bigotry, class structure
- Master/slave relationships: loyalty & devotion vs. duty
- Symbolism
- Character Development

### Step 2: Read "The Scarlet Ibis" by James Hurst and respond to the questions

(Responses are due on the first day of class.)

After reading the novel, read the short story "[The Scarlet Ibis](#)". Answer the following questions using complete sentences and specific evidence. Your responses must be typed.

- 1) Compare the main characters of the two works, looking specifically character motivation in the treatment of their brothers. Use specific evidence (quotes) in your comparisons.
- 2) How is the theme of "love and hate are intertwined" developed in both works? Use specific evidence.
- 3) Compare at least one symbol in "The Scarlet Ibis" to at least one symbol in *The Kite Runner*. Consider looking at color symbolism or the symbolism of the trees in both stories. Make sure you use specific evidence.
- 4) Why do you think we asked you to read both of these works?

### Step 3: Writing Assignment (Responses are due on the first day of class.)

Choose one of the elements/themes above and write a detailed paragraph that displays your understanding of that element (theme, character motivation, symbolism). Your paragraph should include **two** quotes from the text to support your argument. Your paragraph should be analytical and should refrain from simply summarizing the story. Your response must be typed.

Here is an example to get you started:

**Topic sentence:** Khaled Hosseini uses Amir's kite to display (insert a theme)\_\_\_\_\_.

Please contact one of the instructors of the course if you have any questions:

Anoush Khojikian: [akhojikian@tustin.k12.ca.us](mailto:akhojikian@tustin.k12.ca.us)

Melissa Trout: [mtrout@tustin.k12.ca.us](mailto:mtrout@tustin.k12.ca.us)

# Quote Sandwiches

A “Quote Sandwich” is one way to make sure that quotations do not stand alone or unsupported in your writing; quotes should be used purposefully and for a reason. A well-written paragraph will open with a **topic sentence** that addresses the prompt, and introduces a quote. Next will be the **quote** itself, with MLA citation. Finally, include at least three or more sentences of **commentary**. Your commentary sentences should include **one context** sentence, where you explain what is happening around the quote (what is happening in the quote, who said it, what was he/she talking about, whom was he speaking to, etc.) You should also include at least one sentence of **syntax/diction analysis** where you zoom in on specific words or phrases in the quote and explain how they prove your topic sentence. Finally, you should close with a **connecting** sentence, where you go back and restate the topic in a new way. This will make certain that the quote/evidence is being used to support the opinion.

Here’s an example. It was written in response to a prompt about analyzing color symbolism in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*.

Throughout the novel, Fitzgerald uses colors to symbolize characters, objects, and settings. In chapter one, the color white is used to symbolize East Egg. *(these are topic sentences that address the prompt)*. In his narration, Nick says “...the white palaces of fashionable East Egg glittered along the water” (Fitzgerald 5). *(this is the quote proving that colors are used)*. In this passage, Nick is describing East Egg, the more exclusive neighborhood which sits across the bay from where he lives in West Egg. *(this is context commentary, where I explain what is going on around the quote.)* White is a color that can be associated with the absence of all color. Therefore, Fitzgerald may use the color “white” to suggest that the people who live there are vacuous, or shallow. The color “white” can also be associated with heaven, in which case Fitzgerald may be symbolizing Nick’s perception of East Egg as a heavenly place to live. *(these two sentences are diction/syntax commentary, where you look at specific words and/or literary devices and explain how they relate to the topic)*. Fitzgerald’s use of color symbolism gives the reader a better understanding of the characters and setting in the novel. *(this sentence is the connect commentary, explaining how the quote proves what the topic sentence suggested)*.

See how the quote is “sandwiched” between information that sets up why it’s there and then information about what it proves? A paragraph should never open or close with a quote.

Now you try... use this format for Step 3 of your summer assignment!