

English 11: Summer Reading Assignment

Summer Reading:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (ISBN 0-140-17739-6)

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway (ISBN 0-684-80122-1)

For **each** book, I want you identify **4 important quotes** from the text (8 quotes in all). Find quotes that you thought were interesting, thought-provoking, or helped drive the action in some way. After you have identified the quotes, you will need to give the speaker, context, and explain why you selected this quote. I provide an example below.

The entire assignment is DUE the second day of classes. This assignment should be **typed** and in **MLA format** (Times New Roman 12 font), and in **complete sentences**.

IMPORTANT NOTE: NONE OF THE QUOTES YOU USE MAY BE FROM THE SPARKNOTES (OR ANY OTHER STUDY GUIDE WEBSITE) “IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS EXPLAINED” SECTION. If you use a quote from this section, you will not receive credit. You need to come up with YOUR OWN ideas, sorry guys!

Helpful Tips:

- Annotate as you read (fold down pages, highlight sections you like, put notes beside the areas that are confusing/interesting)
- Read the WHOLE book before you start this assignment (that way you can discuss connections throughout the entire book for your “significance” section)
- Try to use literary terms to discuss the prose (i.e., symbols, themes, foreshadowing, similes, metaphors, etc.)
- Discuss the words on the page (What words does the author use? Why these particular words?) and not just the plot

EXAMPLE:

Student Name

Miss Lowry

English 11

Date

SAMPLE ON NEXT PAGE

Summer Reading Assignment

EXAMPLE ONLY-THIS IS **NOT** ONE OF YOUR ASSIGNED BOOKS!

1. **Book:** *The Violent Bear It Away*

Quote (with page number): “Rayber had an instant’s picture of himself, standing in the ocean, holding the child’s limp body in his arms . . . ‘Nothing ever happens to that kind of child,’ Rayber said. ‘In a hundred years people may have learned enough to put them to sleep when they’re born.’” (pg. 168)

Speaker: Narrator and then Rayber to Tarwater

Context: Rayber is discussing Bishop, his mentally handicapped son, with Tarwater. Bishop almost drowns, but he is saved at the last moment by a young woman while the two men watch from the boat.

Significance: The quote is important because you see Bishop’s possible death and “baptism” in the scene. Rayber sees a flash of him holding his “child’s limp body” in his arms and this is indeed what happens later in the text. You also get an idea of how Rayber feels about his child’s mental limitations, and his lack of compassion for other human life.