

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
STOUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL  
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 11 HONORS

Writing About Literature, Edgar V. Roberts

- if eighth edition, read chapter 1 and appendices B and C
- if ninth edition, read chapter 1, and appendices A and B

Oedipus the King – Sophocles

“A Doll House” in Four Major Plays – Henrik Ibsen

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

A Farewell to Arms – Ernest Hemingway

Interpreter of Maladies - Jhumpa Lahiri

**Study Guide Responses:** You will need personal notes on each text to help you prepare for a test on these works. Downloaded notes from the Internet are NOT considered personal notes. The prompts and questions that follow should help you focus on important ideas. **Only the responses on Writing About Literature will be submitted to your teacher in one of your first classes.**

1. Writing About Literature

A. Chapter 1

1. Explain the difference between a controlling idea and a thesis statement. Also, explain the relationship between the two.
2. For “A Doll House” and Jane Eyre, list a controlling idea for each text followed by a thesis statement.

B. Appendix entitled “The Integration of Quotations...”

Review the information on the use of quotations in essays and take notes on each of the capitalized sections.

C. Appendix entitled “Critical Approaches Important to the Study of Literature”

1. Examine the following critical approaches:

- a. Moral / Intellectual
- b. Feminist
- c. Economic Determinist / Marxist
- d. Psychological / Psychoanalyst

2. Create a list identifying what you believe is the most appropriate critical approach to use to study each of the summer reading texts. Try to use each critical approach at least once. Afterwards, briefly defend your choice.

(See page 2)

- II. Oedipus the King  
In what ways is this story ironic? What is Sophocles saying about free will and fate? Do you think the outcome is appropriate? Using the Internet or library, determine what an Oedipal Complex is.
- III. “A Doll House”  
How does Nora find the strength to affirm herself? What lesson does Helmer need to learn? Do you think they will adjust to Nora’s decision?
- IV. Jane Eyre  
What elements of mystery and danger are present throughout the novel? Find evidence of Jane’s awareness of natural beauty. Although Jane’s spirit and rebelliousness are considered shocking by other characters, how does she mature and earn her place as a respected person?
- V. A Farewell to Arms  
What terrible ironies does Frederick Henry experience as a young soldier in a modern war? Why doesn’t Frederick trust ideas and words? How do the mountain activities contrast with those of the plains? Examine Hemingway’s portrayal of Catherine Barkley as a woman who gives herself totally. Is this portrayal realistic?
- VI. Interpreter of Maladies  
What kinds of marriage are presented in the stories? One reviewer has written that Lahiri’s “subject is not love’s failure, ... but the opportunity that an artful spouse (like an artful writer) can make of failure.” Do you agree or disagree? What are the roles and significance of routine and ritual in the stories? What are the rewards and drawbacks of maintaining long- established routines and ritual?