

Trinity Catholic High School

Advanced Placement Summer Work



AP Literature & Composition

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Mrs. Kapono-Nelson

mkapono-nelson@tchs.us

Second book: (choose between Orwell's *1984* or Camus' (pronounced ka-mooh) *The Stranger*. Fill out the Literary Outline form by the return to class in the fall.

Required book: Gaarder's *Sophie's World*

A. Read the novel and complete the assignment (two parts). Read all of the questions first to have clearer purpose for reading. Keep this paper and a notebook near you as you read and work on this assignment as you read. Trying to read the entire book, first, and then do this assignment will end in disaster, I assure you! Please take my advice and work on the questions AS YOU READ.

**Note: If possible, I will make available a way for you to blog and discuss this book with your peers over the summer. This will help clarify your thinking.*

Advice about reading: This book can be dense; that is, it can be hard to understand too much of it at one sitting. Give yourself a good 4-5 weeks to read and complete the assignment (P.S. this estimate is based on my AP students from years past)

Why this book? No book is ever written in a void. All authors belong to their historical time (some, to all time), and the beliefs and philosophies of their times often have an influence on their writing. In order for us to have a more fully developed world view, we read this novel, in which Gaarder hopes to teach us something about basic Western philosophy.

This book is our introduction to the world of ideas and to all of the important questions. It is a perfect foundation to begin a year filled with great books and engaging ideas.

The assignment (in two parts)...three if the blogging works

Part 1: Project

Part 2: Reflection Questions

Part 3-ish: participation in group discussions

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Part one: (done individually or with a partner)

Note on the project: This is worth $\frac{1}{2}$ of your grade. I expect quality work, but I *don't expect that you sacrifice your whole summer for this part*. The purpose of the project is to help you remember the major philosophers of the major philosophic periods and their basic ideas/beliefs.

You will... Create a project in which you show:

~ Each major philosophic time period (Psst...see the attachment)

- The representative philosophers
- Their classification (what philosophy they are identified by; ex. Empiricism)
- Its meaning (ex: what Empiricism means)
- What each believed (summarize the main beliefs of each individual philosopher)

Examples of projects you can do are:

- CD covers (songs and lyrics, etc.)
- A newspaper
- A menu from a "philosophy restaurant"
- A video or film
- A PowerPoint presentation (be creative, don't just "plug and play")
- A website
- A blog
- Timeline chart (this is a good choice for less abstract thinkers)
- Posters (this is on the low end of creativity)

Part two: (must be done individually; **type and double space**)

Answer these questions (7) on the novel; read carefully and FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

1. Choose one philosophy you DISAGREE with and explain your reasoning in 3 paragraphs or more. (think ARGUMENTATIVE essay) Choose something still debatable. In other words, it is futile to disagree with something that has been disproved by science. By that I mean it seem easiest to disagree with something from one of the earliest philosophers, but that preceded modern science. It may have been proven false.
2. Choose one philosophy you AGREE with and explain your reasoning in 3 or more paragraphs.
3. Of all of the "big questions" philosophers attempt to answer, which are most *controversial* or *difficult* and why? Be sure to fully explain why.

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4. Give 5 general facts you learned by reading this book – FACTS, not theories or suppositions. Did any surprise you? Explain.
5. How many realities are present in this book? Sophie and Alberto are fictional. So are Hilde and Albert Knag, even though they are made to seem real. If it's easier to “show” the levels of reality in an illustration, feel free to do so. Be sure to label who lives where. Ultimately, where is Gaarder, the author.
6. After Romantic Irony is defined, examples of it arise in the novel several times. Paraphrase the definition, then cite one example and discuss its effectiveness.
7. Write a 2-3 paragraph reaction to your experience with this book. What did you like, not like, feel frustrated with, in awe of, etc.? Be specific. Make references to specific sections of the book or specific passages. (P.S. you score on this question is based on how well developed your paragraphs are and your reasoning/evidence, not on your opinion)

ADDENDUM: Major philosophic time periods. (these are mostly from the table of contents, but not exactly)

- ❖ Antiquity (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle)
- ❖ The Middle Ages
- ❖ The Renaissance
- ❖ The Baroque (yes, we know the joke)
- ❖ The Enlightenment
- ❖ Romanticism

No, I'm not ignoring the natural philosophers or the more recent ideas, it's just that I don't want this project to be so huge that you are overwhelmed. So, if you cover these six periods, you'll be doing fine.