

2014-2015 PRE-REQUISITE READING FOR HONORS ENGLISH III
AMERICAN LITERATURE
DUE FIRST DAY OF ENGLISH CLASS

PART ONE

The first part of the assignment requires you to read *Serena* by Ron Rash. For this novel you will complete a local color reading log. Requirements are listed below. You may use local libraries to borrow this title, or you can find the novel in bookstores in the area. Ordering from sites such as *amazon.com*, *booksense.com* and other online bookstores is a possibility. You must have a copy of the novel available for use the first week of class. You should be prepared to discuss, write an essay, or take a test this novel on the first day of class.

LOCAL COLOR READING LOG REQUIREMENTS
You must complete 12 journal entries for *Serena*

Local Color - "style of writing derived from the presentation of the features and peculiarities of a particular locality and its inhabitants. It concerned itself mainly with depicting the character of a particular region, concentrating especially upon the peculiarities of dialect, manners, folklore, and landscape that distinguish the area."

"local colour." *Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online*. Encyclopædia Britannica, 2011. Web. 17 Aug. 2011.

There is a definite class divide between characters in the novel. The local color of the setting is often portrayed through the reactions of each group to one another. What are some examples of local traditions, beliefs, dialogues local sayings, reactions and/or behaviors that develop the local color in the novel? Provide at least 3 examples from each section of the novel. How do these affect the way you view *Serena*, since she is an outsider? How do they affect your understanding and/or enjoyment of the plot? Use the following chart format.

<i>Text from the novel with correct citation (last name page #)</i>	<i>Type of local color - dialect, manners, tradition, folklore, etc.</i>	<i>Effect on the reader - creates suspense, affects mood, provides humor, etc.</i>
"It struck Pemberton that males in these mountains rarely stood upright. Instead they leaned into some tree or wall whenever possible. If none was available they squatted, buttocks against the backs of their heels" (Rash 4).	Mannerism - how people look and act	Gives good imagery of men, but also implies they are not confident. Maybe they feel lower class because they are isolated.

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PART TWO

In addition to reading *Serena*, you should choose one novel written by a regional author or a classical American author from the list below. For this novel, you will complete three in-depth journal entries. Requirements of these entries are further listed. You may purchase this novel, or use it from a local library, but you must have this novel present with you on the first day of class. Be prepared to write an essay or give a speech on the novel.

Exceptional Regional Authors

Maya Angelou
Wendell Berry
Olive Ann Burns
Wiley Cash
Fred Chappell
Pat Conroy
Donald Davis
Wilma Dykeman
Tony Earley
Clyde Edgerton
Kaye Gibbons (excluding *Ellen Foster*)
Robert Morgan
Toni Morrison
Ron Rash (excluding *Serena*)
Ferrol Sams
Lee Smith
Ila Jean Yount
Jeannette Walls

Authors of American Classics

William Faulkner (excluding *As I Lay Dying*)
Earnest Hemingway
Jack Kerouac
Herman Melville
Margaret Mitchell
Flannery O'Connor
Sylvia Plath
J.D. Salinger
John Steinbeck (excluding *Of Mice and Men* and *Grapes of Wrath*)
Henry David Thoreau
Mark Twain
Anne Tyler
Richard Wright

Please note: Some of these novels may contain adult language and situations you find uncomfortable. Please preview with reviews and publisher summaries. If the language or situations offend you, stop reading and select another title.

JOURNAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must complete three journal entries for your novel

JOURNAL ENTRY 1 – FIRST 3rd OF THE NOVEL –Please answer all of the following questions. Make sure your response is a minimum of 150 words.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Why did you choose to read this novel?
- What information did you need to know before reading this novel?
- What has happened before the novel began?
- Who is telling the story?
- What is the setting and why is it important to the novel?
- What is the initial problem(s) faced by the main character?
- How does the author get your attention or hold your interest?
- Choose a quote and explain its significance to the novel.

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JOURNAL ENTRY 2 – MIDDLE 3rd OF THE NOVEL - Please answer all of the following questions. Make sure your response is a minimum of 150 words.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What new things are added to the original problem as the novel progresses?
- What plot twists or unexpected events happen?
- What have you discovered about the author's style?
- Is there a message or a main theme emerging in the book?
- Describe **at least two** of the characters. Go beyond just the physical characteristics.
- Choose a quote and explain its significance to the novel.

JOURNAL ENTRY 3 – LAST 3rd OF THE NOVEL - Please answer all of the following questions. Make sure your response is a minimum of 150 words.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What is the climax of the novel?
- How are the major and minor conflicts resolved?
- What message did you get from the novel?
- How was this message conveyed?
- How realistic is the novel?
- How is the title important to the main idea of the novel?
- How does the novel compare to others that you have read?
- Why would you (or why wouldn't you) recommend this novel to a friend?
- Choose a quote and explain its significance to the novel.