

American Literature and Composition

Ms. Sengstock

Summer Reading: 2022

Assignment 1 | Carson McCullers *The Member of the Wedding*

I am very excited about teaching this class and meeting you next year. My hope is that through our study of American literature, both fiction and nonfiction, you will discover a new love for reading by diving into a text to discover the beauty of its depth. In order to prepare for the rigor of this course, please see the following information about your summer reading. All summer assignments are due on Friday, August 26th.

Carson McCullers *The Member of the Wedding*

Assignment: McCullers' novel is divided into three parts. Complete this work for each of the three sections of the novel. Compile these responses in a typed, double-spaced document, in 12-point font, MLA format. Be prepared to submit this assignment to TURNITIN once you've been assigned a class ID.

Note on plagiarism: you are expected to do your own work on summer reading assignments. Do not consult outside sources. It is perfectly acceptable to discuss these books with your peers. However, you should neither share responses with nor accept responses from other students.

Reader Responses

Directions: Choose any THREE of the following prompts for each of the three parts of the novel. Nine total. At least three of your nine responses should be on Author's Craft/Style.

Requirements: Each response should be approximately 50 words and meet the following criteria: Write one sentence explaining the context (who, what, where, when) of the quotation; one sentence gracefully integrating a salient portion of the quote as evidence (include an MLA parenthetical citation); and one or two sentences of elaboration making an inference or raising a high-level question about the significance of the quotation. ***Crisp, concise, and coherently articulated sentences account for 50% of each response.*** LABEL each response (Contrasts, Insights, etc.)

Contrasts: Write about a passage where you notice a character behaving in a way that is contrary to how you might expect him or her to behave. Why is the character behaving this way? How does this contradiction shape your impression of the character? How might this be ironic? Comment.

Author's Craft/Style: *Setting*: Write about a passage that strikes you as a particularly engaging and rich in description of *setting*. What do you notice about the author's choices in diction, imagery, figurative language, and syntax (DIDLS)? How do these elements of style convey a mood or atmosphere? What impact does this passage have on your understanding of the character or theme?

Author's Craft/Style: *Character*: Write about a passage that strikes you as a particularly engaging and rich in description of *character*. What do you notice about the author's choices in diction, imagery, figurative language, details, and syntax (DIDLS)? How do these elements of style contribute to your understanding of the character and the setting? What impact does this passage have on your understanding of theme?

Insights/Epiphanies: Write about a passage where you notice a character's growing awareness or sudden understanding of something. How does this growing realization or moment of clarity change things? How does the character deal with the dilemma? Comment.

Conflicts: Write about a passage where you notice a character facing tough questions, dilemmas, uncertainty, or uneasiness. How does the character react to conflict, and what does this indicate about the character's values? How do these conflicts contribute to theme?