

Summer Reading Assignment  
English I Pre AP  
Ms. Tomkins

Students **must read two** or more of the books below. When you get back to school, we will discuss the books you read over the summer to share your interests, likes and dislikes to honor and celebrate what you read in order to help guide instruction throughout the school year.

*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

*Buried Onions* by Gary Soto

*Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich

**On the first day of school you will need to turn in the following assignments:**

**Assignment #1:**

Complete the Plot Diagram attached hereto for both novels.

**Assignment #2:**

Think of the theme of the books you read. Now think of a time in your life, a friend's life or a family member's life that reflects the theme of the book or what the characters experienced throughout the novel.

*How to find theme: See next page*

Write (at least) a one-page (either typed: double-spaced) or hand-written (single-spaced) response connecting each of the novels to a personal experience (family member or friend's experience if you don't have one of your own). One-page for each novel (so two total).

## Three steps to finding a theme

If you understand your plot, the parts your characters play in the story, and the effects this plot will have on your characters' lives, you will find the meaning of your story. Once you understand the meaning, you will find the theme.

1. **What is the story about?** This is the plot of the story. **Example:** My story is about a man who hunts down the men who were acquitted after they killed his family.
2. **What is the meaning behind the story?** This is usually an abstract result of his actions. **Example:** My story says that when the system fails a person who has lost everything, he will find out how far he is prepared to go.
3. **What is the lesson?** This is a statement about the human condition. **Example:** People with nothing to lose are dangerous.

Lajos Egri gives this simple formula to develop a theme.

### The Lajos Egri Theme Cheat Sheet:

\_\_\_\_\_ leads to \_\_\_\_\_

**Example:** Your wife committing adultery **leads to** you finding out you never really know anyone.

**Example:** Embezzling money from your company and getting caught **leads to** you understanding honesty is the best policy.

**Example:** A woman who meddles in other people's marriages **leads to** her realising that fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

# Plot Diagram

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

## Plot

-The story's sequence of events  
(Exposition, Rising Action, Climax,  
Falling Action, Resolution [see boxes])

Flashbacks \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Foreshadowing \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Flashforwards \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## (4) Falling Action

Conflict Outcome \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Resulting Events \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## (3) Climax

Point of greatest tension

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## (1) Exposition

Setting

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Environment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Characters

Main \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mood

\_\_\_\_\_

Point of View

\_\_\_\_\_

## (2) Rising Action

Character Roles

Protagonist(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Antagonist(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conflict

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mood

\_\_\_\_\_

## (5) Resolution

Final outcome \_\_\_\_\_

Theme

Story's meaning \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Author's Purpose

(Persuade, inform, entertain, describe)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_