

## Summer Reading Questions

When reading your summer reading books, it would be an excellent idea to take notes. The following questions are meant to help you analyze and summarize each book. These notes will be helpful when each of the books is discussed in class later in the year.

When answering the questions, it is smart to support your ideas with quotes from the book. Note the page numbers so you can cite your source properly as you may be writing an essay on one or more of the books.

1. What is the theme (the central, dominating idea or universal truth) of the book?
2. What is the author's view of life as shown in the book?
3. From whose point of view is the story told? How does this point of view shape the story?
4. What is the author's attitude toward the characters? What is the most noticeable tone of his/her writing?
5. How does the author develop the characters? By descriptions? By what they say? By what they do? By what others say about them?
6. How does the author lead you to like some characters and dislike others? Which characters fall into these categories?
7. Which characters are the most highly developed? Does any character change significantly in attitudes or beliefs?
8. Does the book have a believable plot? Do the incidents in the story seem true to life?
9. How does the author use dialogue? What are the most important scenes in the book?
10. What symbols are central in the book? How do they contribute to the book as a whole? To the theme?

In addition to answering the questions above, you may find it helpful to summarize each chapter or section of the book. When taking notes, you may find you have some questions. Write them down and ask your teacher when you return in the fall. Be ready to discuss each novel the first week of classes. Enjoy!