

Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment Response to Literature

Objective: Students will be able to write an effective response to literature that includes a thesis and evidence drawn from the selection(s). (Standards W2.2, W2.3, W2.4)

Prompt 1: The setting of *The Diary of Anne Frank* is the top floor of a warehouse in Amsterdam, Holland, during World War II. Two families and one other individual, all Jews, try to live in these cramped quarters under difficult circumstances while hiding from the Germans because they do not want to be taken to concentration camps. Explore the relationship between the setting, the way the characters deal with their circumstances, and one of the story's important themes.

Prompt 2: Choose a narrative poem or short story from the list below. Explore the relationship between the selection's setting, literary devices, and mood.

The Highwayman (Noyes)

Paul Revere's Ride (Longfellow)

The Raven (Poe)

The Cremation of Sam McGee (Service)

The Tell-Tale Heart (Poe)

The War Prayer (Twain)

Prompt 3: *Flowers for Algernon* centers on a man, Charlie Gordon, and how he struggles to become an intelligent, enlightened human being. Analyze Charlie's character, including his reactions to his changing circumstances, and explore how his struggles may or may not be a metaphor for life in general, and what the implications might be for us.

Assignment: Write to only one specific prompt; you must also formulate your own properly-constructed thesis and support your thesis with evidence, such as specific details, quotes from the selection, examples, explanations, observation, and sound, logical reasons. This assignment is due on _____.

Specs:

Format: Standard Composition

Margins: 1 inch, top, bottom, left, right

Alignment: Left or fully justified

Indents: .5 inches for paragraphs

Line Spacing: 1.5 or double

Font: Times New Roman, Arial; 11- or 12-pt.

Title: YES

Turn in all parts of process: YES

Citations Page: NO

Name, period, date placement: Upper right corner

Name, period, date line spacing: Single

Illustrations / pictures: Not required

Extra space between paragraphs: NO

Save copies on your flash drive: YES

Title Specs: Assigned fonts; 14- or 16-pt.; centered

Title Note: 1 or 2 blank lines between title and body

How to turn in: Hard copies only