

## **2025 Summer Reading for Students Entering EN 101/102 (Dual ONLY)**

**Students:** Each student should read **one book** with a recommended **second book** and write **one essay**.

### **REQUIRED:**

- A. *An Experiment in Criticism* by C.S. Lewis
- B. College Entrance Essay (see below)

### **RECOMMENDED:**

- C. Selected text (see below)

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR REQUIRED ESSAY:**

**Students:** Each student should **FIRST** read the following:

- A. Read “12 Strategies to Writing the Perfect College Essay”: [12 Strategies to Writing the Perfect College Essay - Harvard Summer School](#)

### **AND**

- B. Click the following link and choose **ONE** of the essays to read and be prepared to discuss on the first day of class: [Essays That Worked | Johns Hopkins University Admissions \(jhu.edu\)](#)

### **THEN**

Using what you learned from the reading above, select **ONE** essay prompt of your choice from the list of Common App essay prompts (link below) and write a 1-2 page essay in MLA format that responds to the question.

[First-year essay prompts \(commonapp.org\)](#)

In your response, please do the following:

- TYPE your essay
- Use proper MLA format (with a header/heading, TNR 12 point font, double spaced without extra spaces between paragraphs)
- Instead of a title, copy the question you have chosen to respond to
- This is a **personal** essay, so use of first person pronouns (“I”) is expected; however, please avoid second person pronouns (“you”)
- Check for correct grammar, punctuation, etc.

You will turn this essay in to Turnitin.com by **Friday, August 8, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.** This will count as your first **essay** grade for EN 101 or a **response paper** grade for EN 102.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR REQUIRED TEXT:**

- B. Read *An Experiment in Criticism* by C.S. Lewis. Assignment: Mark the text as you read (see directions below). Bring the text to the second class period. This will count as a **response paper** grade for EN 102.

Book #1 assignment: Book Annotation for *An Experiment in Criticism*

#### Book Annotation Assignment

Although you may purchase a book, full ownership of a book comes when you have made it a part of yourself, and the best way to make it meaningful for you is to interact with the book as you read it. We interact with a book when we use pencils or pens for annotation (adding notes or comments to a text, book, drawing) and that is a key component of

close reading. You may feel that annotating the book slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That is the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. The assignment is to make annotations in *An Experiment in Criticism* as you read the text (use the margin space as well). **THE EPILOGUE for *An Experiment in Criticism* COUNTS AS PART OF THE BOOK!** If you do not annotate the epilogue as well, you cannot receive an A on this assignment.

How do you make annotations? The techniques are almost limitless. You can use underlines, boxes, triangles, clouds, brackets, exclamation or question marks.

What should you note? Underline quotes or lines you think are significant, powerful, or meaningful. Note sentences where you agree/disagree with the author. Put a question mark in areas of the text you do not understand.

#### Grading:

A- I would expect to see markings and written commentary throughout the entire book, at least one mark on each page, including recognition of significant points, themes, ideas, or arguments. There will probably be something significant noted in nearly every page.

B- The B grade may be lacking in written commentary, but the “highlighted” areas will reflect the significant elements. Markings will be notes on about half of the pages.

C- The book markings may be missing some significant elements, but will still be highlighted throughout some of the book, showing your basic understanding of Lewis’s points.

D- The book markings are sporadic, but still contains markings that demonstrate a basic understanding of Lewis’s points.

Lower grades will reflect a lack of reading, possibly in skipped sections or random highlights of insignificant material. This will count as your first **response paper** grade for EN 102, whichever semester you take the course (fall or spring).

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECOMMENDED TEXT (NOTE: This text *IS* required for the course; you are just choosing whether you want to read it over the summer or wait until the school year)**

Whether you take it 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, your final exam in the 102 course will be a literary research paper on a book of your choosing. You may wish to get ahead on this course by reading one of the following books. **You *must* pick a book you have never read before for this assignment.** You may also pick a book not on this list, as long as you e-mail and ask me for permission at [esadler@princeave.org](mailto:esadler@princeave.org). The options are fairly open, as long as it’s a) A book you’ve never read before, and b) A book that is considered “canon” (you can e-mail me to ask, if you’re unsure of a book’s status). You are also free to choose any **unabridged** version of the text.

#### **Quests and Adventure**

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott

*Idylls of the King* by Lord Alfred Tennyson

*Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, or *The Return of the King* by J.R.R. Tolkien (if you haven’t read any of them before, you should pick *Fellowship of the Ring*)

*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White

*The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas

*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes

#### **Comedy and Romance**

*Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare

*As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

*Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (or any Austen novel that you have not read before)

**More Options on the Next Page →**

### **Realistic Fiction**

*Middlemarch* by George Eliot

*Silas Marner* by George Eliot

*Howard's End* by E.M. Forster

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansbury

### **Science Fiction**

*1984* by George Orwell

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells

### **Tales of Betrayal, Jealousy, and War**

*Othello* by William Shakespeare

*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

*Henry V* by William Shakespeare

*King Lear* by William Shakespeare

*The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

*Murder in the Cathedral* by T.H. White

*War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy

*Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

*Strong Poison* by Dorothy L. Sayers

### **The Monster Within/Gothic Romance and Gothic Horror**

*Dr. Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe (drama; tragedy)

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

*Dracula* by Bram Stoker

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

### **Children's Literature**

*The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling

*Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll

*Tom Brown's School Days* by Thomas Hughes

*A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnette

### **Christian Literature and Allegory (Fiction)**

*Le Morte D'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory

*The Inferno* by Dante

*The Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser

*Paradise Lost* by John Milton

*Pilgrim's Progress, Parts I and II* by John Bunyan

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*Silence* by Shusako Endo

*The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

*The Man Born to be King* by Dorothy L. Sayers

**More Options on the Next Page →**

**Christian Literature (Non-Fiction/Theology)**

*Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich

*The Book of Margery Kemp* by Margery Kemp

*On the Incarnation* by St. Athanasius

*Heretics **AND** Orthodoxy* by G.K. Chesterton (both are fairly short and are meant to be read together)

*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis