
Independent Reading Study Guide

English I Pre-AP/GT

As part of our never-ending quest to be smarter and to be better readers and writers, this year we will be engaged in a free-reading project. During this unit, you will have the opportunity to read a novel of your choice and complete the assignments. This is a great chance to prove that you are a mature, independent learner.

Your responsibilities are simple. All you need to do is read your novel and be sure to get the assignments done by the due date (**May 11th**). All assignments must be typed in a **serif** font between 10pt and 12pt. (Serif fonts have “tails” like Georgia, the font you’re reading now.)

Make sure you READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY. You do not always need to do all assignments so careful reading is necessary. Keep this study neat and organized! There are 3 parts to this novel study.

Part One: Critical Element Information

Complete all of the following assignments.

1. Complete a title page for your independent novel study. You should include an MLA cover page, including the title and author of your text.
2. Read the title and first line of the first chapter. Write a 3 sentence prediction.
3. Summarize Chapter 1 in 40 words or less. ALL words count.
4. List ALL aspects of the setting.
5. What point of view is your story written in? How does this point of view affect the story? What is the genre of your independent choice (historical fiction, literary nonfiction, romantic drama, etc.)? How does this genre affect the story?
6. Explain the central conflict your protagonist faces in 3 sentences.
7. Draw a picture of the protagonist, and write/type at least 3 personality traits. Be sure to color your drawing. (Your artwork may be drawn by hand or digital as long as it’s printed in color.)
8. Copy 4 quotes (could be the narration or dialogue) from the text that would help describe the antagonist to someone who has never read the book. (Remember that in some cases the antagonist may be a force rather than a person.)

Critical Element Rubric

Category	Excellent 5	Satisfactory 3	Unsatisfactory 1
Ideas/Content	Each response completely answers the prompt. Responses are detailed and comprehensive.	Responses incompletely answer the prompt. Responses are somewhat detailed.	Incomplete responses. Lack of detail/failure to answer the prompt.
Presentation	Presentation is very clear. Pages are neatly typed/drawn. Each section has an appropriate heading.	Presentation is adequate. Assignments may not be uniform in font/style.	Presentation is poor. Assignments lack organization and neatness.
Fluency	Responses are fluent and easy to understand.	Responses are somewhat fluent, creating small disruptions in understanding.	Responses are poorly written and difficult to understand.
Quantity	All 8 assignments are completed.	One or two assignments are incomplete.	More than two assignments are missing or incomplete.

Note: A mark of 2 or 4 may be given and will be shown with a circle on the line.

Total mark: /20

Part Two: Vocabulary Assignment

Choose one of the following assignments. Include a title and any necessary headings. Cite the page number for each word selected.

1. **Vocabulary Log.** Choose words that you do not know the meaning of. Record the dictionary definition for each word. Use each word in a sentence as well.
2. **Crossword.** Provide a clue for each word and the answer key.
3. **Great Word List.** List interesting, important or unusual words from your book and explain your reasons for choosing each word.
4. **Original Assignment.** Choose a creative way to present the vocabulary you've acquired while reading your text. (Subject to teacher approval.)

Vocabulary Rubric

Category	Excellent 5	Satisfactory 3	Unsatisfactory 1
Vocabulary Usage	All words are used correctly in the assignment.	Most words are used correctly in the assignment	Many words are incorrectly used in the assignment.
Presentation	The assignment is completed according to directions and is neatly presented.	The assignment is almost completed according to directions and is somewhat neatly presented.	The assignment is attempted but not completed correctly and/or is difficult to read.

Note: A mark of 2 or 4 may be given and will be shown with a circle on the line.

Total mark: /10

Part Three: Reading Journal Assignment:

Journals must be written with great care and detail. Journal entries must be approximately ½ page in length, typed, and double-spaced in a serif font between 10pt and 12pt.

Use the following questions as a guide when you are writing your journal entries.

1st Journal Entry (At the beginning of your novel):

- Why did you select this novel? -What information did you need to know before reading the novel?
- What's going on as the story begins?
- Who is telling the story?
- Are there any supporting characters introduced?
- Is the setting important or could the novel be happening anywhere? Why?
- What is the initial or first conflict faced by the main character?
- How does the author get you to read on or hold your interest?

2nd Journal Entry (Near the middle of your novel):

- What new events are added to the original problem as the novel progresses?
- What plot twists or unexpected events happen as the novel goes on?
- Is there any interesting language that pops out at you?
- Is it easy or hard to follow the events of your novel? Why?
- Is the language in the novel difficult or easy? Why? -To what age group is the novel aimed?
- Is there a message or main theme surfacing in the book? How is it shown?
- Describe any new characters that are introduced. What is their purpose?

3rd Journal Entry (Near the end of your novel):

- What is the climax of the novel?
- How are the major and minor conflicts solved?
- What were the major things which helped to resolve the plot?
- How was the main message of the novel delivered?
- Is this novel realistic/believable?
- Why would (or why wouldn't you) recommend this novel to a friend?
- Why did (or didn't) this novel meet your expectations?

Tip: Do not summarize the novel here but do give examples from the novel to back up your opinion or thought.

Reading Journal Rubric

Category	Excellent 5	Satisfactory 3	Unsatisfactory 1
Ideas/Content	Entries show evidence of reflection about what you're reading and original ideas not summaries, or "stories." You always attempt deeper thinking in your writing.	Entries include some reflection about what you're reading original thoughts but also lots of summaries, or "stories." You usually attempt deeper thinking in your writing.	Entries do not show reflection about what you're reading. Entries are confusing to read.
Evidence from novel.	Examples and references from the novel are provided in detail where necessary.	Examples and references from the novel are provided but more detail is often needed.	Not enough detail is included in examples from the novel to show the reader what part of the novel is being discussed.
Presentation	Presentation is very clear. Journals are always double-spaced typed. A title is always included for each entry including the chapters or pages.	Presentation is adequate. Journals are double-spaced and fairly neatly presented. Titles are usually included.	Presentation is not clear. Proper format has been attempted only.
Fluency	Journals are always easy to read and understand.	Journals are mostly easy to read and understand.	Journals are often difficult to read and understand.
Quantity	All journal entries are half- a page typed (12pt) or more.	One journal is not the required.	More than one journal entry is not the required length.

Note: A mark of 2 or 4 may be given and will be shown with a circle on the line.

Total mark: /25