Hope Christian School
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12th Grade Summer Reading

Honors and Regular 12th Grade English Classes

Non-honors students are required to read Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations.*

Honors students are required to read Charles' Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* **and** Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray.*

Each of the following prompts must be answered in complete sentences. Short, fragmentary responses will not be accepted. Show me that you read the book and invested time and thought into your answers!

Please type your responses. You must turn in your summer reading assignment on or before the first day of school on turnitin.com; your assignment is due by midnight on August 20th. Late summer reading assignments will be docked a letter grade for each day that they are late. Remember, this assignment counts as an exam grade!

Non-honors English IV

Section I: Character

Analysis
For each of the following characters, provide 2-3 defining characteristics and explain your choices.

- **Pip**
- **Joe Gargery**
- **Mrs. Joe**
- **Ms. Havisham**
- **Estella**
- **Abel Magwitch**
- **Jaggers**
- **Herbert Pocket**
- **Biddy**
- **Uncle Pumblechook**
- **Wemmick**
- **Dolge Orlick**

Section II: Symbol Interpretation

Dickens frequently uses non-traditional symbolism in his novels by giving certain places or people figurative significance. For each of the following symbols, places, or people, explain their meaning in 3-5 sentences

- **Satis House**
- **London**
- **Ms. Havisham**
- **Magwitch**
- **Joe Gargery**

- **Mrs. Joe**

Section III: Passage Explanation
In 2-3 paragraphs, analyze and explain the following passage and its significance within the novel.

"So throughout life our worst weaknesses and meannesses are usually committed for the sake of the people whom we most despise." - Chapter 27

Section IV: Personal Response
Answer the following prompt in 2-3 paragraphs. You **may** use first person.

> What were Pip's "great expectations" or dreams throughout the novel? What did he learn about these dreams in the end?

Honors English IV

Section I: Character Analysis
For each of the following characters, provide 2-3 defining character traits and explain your choices.

- **Charles Darnay**
- **Sydney Carton**
- **Madame Defarge**
- **Lucie**
- **Ms. Pross**
- **Dr. Manette**
- **Evrémonde**
- **Monsieur Defarge**
- **Jerry Cruncher**
- **Jacques**

For each of the following symbols, describe their significance in 3-5 sentences.

- **The guillotine**
- **Madame Defarge's knitting**
- **Jacques**
- **Wine**
- **Shoes**

Section III: Passage Explanation
In 2-3 paragraphs, analyze and explain the opening lines of *A Tale of Two Cities* and discuss how its significance is explored throughout the rest of the novel.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only." – Chapter 1

Section IV: Personal Response

Answer the following prompt in 2-3 paragraphs. You **may** use first person.

A major theme of *A Tale of Two Cities* is being "born again." Choose two characters that you believe embody this theme and describe them carefully.

Section V: Compare and Contrast

Respond to the following essay prompt in 3-5 paragraphs. You must utilize quotes or examples from both *A Tale of Two Cities* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

> Although very different in their life choices and personal beliefs, both Charles Dickens and Oscar Wilde were intrigued by the possibilities of emotional duplicity, especially in the personalities of their characters. This interest was heightened by the growing popularity of psychology and studies of human behavior during the Victorian era. The desire to understand other humans and the motivations behind their actions is still a source of fascination and continues to be a major theme in modern literature.
>
> In your essay, explain how Dickens and Wilde explore the presence of duality in human personality by choosing one or two characters from each novel and analyzing their characteristics.