

Literary Arts Department Grade 9 Summer Assignment 2019-2020

COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES (*contact Mr. Walsh at pwalsh@charterarts.org with any questions*)

ASSIGNMENT

- 1.) Read “The Rocking-Horse Winner” by D.H. Lawrence. A copy of the short story can be found on this site: <http://www.classicshorts.com/stories/rockwinr.html>
- 2.) After reading and taking notes on the text, respond to the following analysis question in **AT LEAST ONE DOUBLE SPACED PAGE. BE SURE TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT TO SUPPORT YOUR CLAIMS.** Please complete the question on a Google Doc that can be uploaded to Google Classroom on the first day of school.

Do you think Hester loves her son? Are there moments in the story when she seems more sympathetic than others? How would you explain the way her feelings towards Paul change (or don't change) throughout course of the story?

COURSE: CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

ASSIGNMENT (*contact Mrs. Liemberger at kliemberger@charterarts.org with any questions*)

- 1.) Purchase your own copy of *The Art of Character* by David Corbett. Read the introduction and Chapter 1. Then, answer the following questions:
 - a. When you write a story, do you think about your characters as actual people or do you only think about the role that they will serve in the plot? Why?
 - b. Have you ever created a character that developed a mind of his/her own? If so, explain. If not, explain how you typically go about creating your characters. Do you ever think about their mental worlds and what drives their actions?
 - c. Think about a character from a book, movie, or television show that you connect with in some way. What is it about this character that draws you to him/her. Do you think any of your characters could have this effect on someone? Why or why not?
 - d. David Corbett states that “Comprehending your characters begins with an honest, unflinching understanding of yourself.” What do you think this means? Do you agree?
- 2.) Create two character sketches using the template provided at this link: http://fictionfoundry.alumni.columbia.edu/character_sketch_template. You can add to this

template if you want. The blank bullet points are there to suggest that there is always more that you can add. There are other character sketch templates available online as well.

- For the first sketch, you are the character. You find yourself at a moment in your life where you are enjoying a bit of a pause before the next major action takes place. Pauses allow for reflection and speculation about what is to come. Who were you for the first fourteen years of your life? What major events shaped this person? Who do you hope to become over the next four years? Fill out the character sketch accordingly.
- For the second sketch, I want you to create a character who, like you, is on the cusp of a major life changing event. You get to decide what this event is and everything else about the character. Have fun!