

11th Grade Summer Reading: DISCOVERY OF IDENTITY

Who are you, really? Are you the same person you were five years ago? Five months ago? Five days ago? Chances are the answer is no, because part of the human condition is evolution of the individual.

Consequently themes related to individuality are essential for any American Literature course. For this summer reading assignment, students will map a progression of the protagonist’s journey of self-discovery in the reading selection chosen and analyze how it connects to themes of individuality.

GUIDING QUESTION: How does the development of the protagonist connect to themes of individuality in the novel?

YOUR SUMMER TASK: Identify textual evidence of **THREE KEY MOMENTS** that helped shape the main character’s realization of his or her place in the world. In addition to the textual evidence, students are to provide four-to-five sentences of analysis (per moment) explaining how the excerpt chosen **REPRESENTS GROWTH IN THE CHARACTER** and **CONNECTS TO THEMES OF INDIVIDUALITY**. Ideally, the quotes chosen will map a progression from innocence to self-assured maturity.

Summer Reading Options (Choose 1)

- **The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger
- *Being Henry David*, Cal Armistead
- **Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer
- *Old School*, Tobias Wolff

*Indicates that some copies are available from 11th grade teachers. Please see any of the 11th grade team (Mrs. Farischon, Mr. Moser, Mrs. Barnett, Mrs. Stallard, Ms. Konnick, Mrs. Herb, Mrs. McGuigan, and Ms. Sabatino) to sign out what you would like to read.

Reading Standards Addressed:

CC.1.3.11–12.C Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama.

Utilize this graphic organizer on the ensuing pages to complete your quote selections and analysis of the stages of individual discovery. YOU WILL THEN TRANSFER THE MATERIAL IN THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER INTO A TYPED ELECTRONIC FILE TO BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN.COM:

<i>Exemplar:</i>	
Quote 1	Analysis
<p>“When I was younger, I scared my mother to death, the things I would blurt out about District 12, about the people who rule our country, Panem, from the far-off city called the Capitol. Eventually I understood this would only lead us to more trouble. So I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts. Do my work quietly in school. Make only polite small talk in the public market. Discuss little more than trades in the Hob, which is the black market where I make most of my money. Even at home, where I am less pleasant, I avoid discussing tricky topics. Like the reaping, or food shortages, or the Hunger Games” (Collins 7).</p>	<p><i>The novel’s protagonist, Katniss Everdeen, displays a keen understanding of the oppression she and her family endure in District 12. She references a rebellious spirit from her younger days that “scared her mother to death.” Clearly, this excerpt references an early stage in her development before Katniss had learned to suppress her true feelings. The concealing of this disillusionment is an essential aspect of her survival. Younger Katniss exhibits immaturity by shooting her mouth off; older Katniss has learned to display self-control while “playing the game,” which shows she has taken major steps toward maturing. Though she outwardly conforms, clearly she is becoming an individual who can survive in the dystopian society of Panem.</i></p>

Quote 1

Analysis



Quote 2

Analysis



Quote 3	Analysis
	

Brief summaries (from Amazon) of the works you may choose from:

➤ ***The Catcher in the Rye- J.D. Salinger (copies available to borrow from the English Department)***

The Catcher in the Rye is J. D. Salinger's world-famous novel of disaffected youth. Holden Caulfield is a 17-year-old who has just been kicked out of his fourth school. Navigating his way through the challenges of growing up, Holden dissects the "phony" aspects of society, and the "phonies" themselves: the headmaster whose affability depends on the wealth of parents and his roommate who wins dates using sickly-sweet affection. Written with the clarity of a boy leaving childhood behind, *The Catcher in the Rye* explores the world with disarming frankness and a warm, affecting charisma which has made this novel a universally loved classic of twentieth-century literature.

➤ ***Being Henry David, Cal Armistead***

Seventeen-year-old "Hank" has found himself at Penn Station in New York City with no memory of anything—who he is, where he came from, why he's running away. His only possession is a worn copy of *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau. And so he becomes Henry David—or "Hank"—and takes first to the streets, and then to the only destination he can think of—Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. Cal Armistead's remarkable debut novel about a teen in search of himself. As Hank begins to piece together recollections from his past he realizes that the only way he can discover his present is to face up to the realities of his grievous memories. He must come to terms with the tragedy of his past to stop running and find his way home.

➤ ***Into the Wild, Jon Krakauer***

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He gave \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*.

➤ **Old School, Tobias Wolff**

The protagonist of Tobias Wolff's shrewdly—and at times devastatingly—observed first novel is a boy at an elite prep school in 1960. He is an outsider who has learned to mimic the negligent manner of his more privileged classmates. Like many of them, he wants more than anything on earth to become a writer. But to do that he must first learn to tell the truth about himself. The agency of revelation is the school literary contest, whose winner will be awarded an audience with the most legendary writer of his time. As the fever of competition infects the boy and his classmates, fraying alliances, exposing weaknesses, *Old School* explores the ensuing deceptions and betrayals with an unblinking eye and a bottomless store of empathy.

Project Rubric

	Advanced (20-19)	Proficient (18-17)	Needs Improvement (16-15)	Basic (14-0)	
Content of response: ANALYSIS	Student thoroughly analyzes the author's choices regarding the development of the character and clearly assesses how it connects to themes of individuality.	Student analyzes the author's choices regarding the development of the character and assesses how it connects to themes of individuality.	Student somewhat analyzes the author's choices regarding the development of the character and only partially assesses how it connects to themes of individuality.	Student fails to adequately analyze the author's choices regarding the development of the character and only passingly assesses how it connects to themes of individuality.	
Content of response: EVIDENCE	There is substantial, accurate, and direct reference to the text(s) using relevant key details, examples, quotes, facts, and/or definitions to strongly illustrate the advancement of themes of individuality through character growth.	There is accurate, and direct reference to the text(s) using relevant details, examples, quotes, facts, and/or definitions to illustrate the advancement of themes of individuality through character growth.	There is direct reference to the text(s) using details, examples, quotes, facts, and/or definitions to somewhat illustrate the advancement of themes of individuality through character growth.	There is some reference to the text(s) using quotes that inadequately illustrate the advancement of themes of individuality through character growth.	

CC.1.3.11–12.C Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama

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