

## Great Books Seminar

### Assignment 1

1. Read George Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London*, Chapters 1–11 and be able to answer the questions for class discussion. You may print the book out or download the PDF on your iPad, but remember *you MUST read my annotated edition*. Be able to answer the questions in class. The study guide sheet will form at least 60% of the quiz.
2. Think of a topic for your narrative. If you have further questions about the essay, bring them to class next week. *The essay will be due the fourth Friday in September*. The narrative should make an observation that goes against mainstream thinking, that broaches a topic that is misunderstood, or that for one reason or another people don't talk about much. Suggested topics include the following:



- \* current political topics, such as a popular or unpopular political figure, attitudes toward immigration, or expressing political opinions in a politically charged environment
- \* social observations, such as the awkwardness of speaking one's mind, being teased, or trying to hide your thoughts from another person when you think that you are being "read."
- \* politeness in arguments

The focus areas will include using the 3Ds to get your point across. Although the essay may contain expository elements, remember that these topics must be approached through *telling a personal experience* (narrative) rather than explaining something (expository). Use Orwell's work as an example. Use Orwell's work as an example of effective use of detail, dialog and description to communicate ideas. Have your topic ready for next week.

3. Choose one work from the GBS list to read and write a five- to six-paragraph essay on. The essay will examine the theme and how the author expresses that theme through character development, plot, word choice, tone, literary devices, etc.
4. Come up with a topic to write about for your blog entry by next week. Next Friday we will decide the order in which they will be written.

### Long Range Assignments

1. Your narrative essay, about 350–950 words in length, will be due **the last Friday in September**. The length of your essay will have little bearing on your grade unless you write

much less or much more than the recommended length. The essay should be double-spaced, printed in 12 pt. font, such as Times New Roman. Your name and title of the essay should be printed in the upper right hand corner of the essay. Please staple your pages with the grade sheet on top. The grade sheet is posted on the assignment page under “Materials for the Year.”

2. Choose one work from the GBS list to read and write a five- to six-paragraph essay on. The essay will examine the work’s theme and how the author expresses that theme through character development, plot, word choice, tone, literary devices, etc. This essay will be due **the second week of January**. We will go over the essay in more detail later after you have read your work, due **the second week of December**.
3. Each of you will be writing a blog entry that will be in the form of a musings essay, from about two to ten paragraphs long. Come up with a topic to write about by next week. Next week we will decide the order in which they will be written. Yo will be writing only one blog entry for the entire year, which will be posted online for all our homeschool families to enjoy.