

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2017

Science fiction author, Vernor Vinge, has stated, "Within 30 years, we will have the means to create superhuman intelligence. Shortly after, the human era will be ended."

Hello, students signed up for Honors English II! Your future Honors English I teachers are assigning you a reading and writing assignment to be completed during the summer and brought to class, completed, on Thursday, August 17th, which is the second day of school.

You are expected to purchase your own book so you can write and take notes in it. You may purchase it from your bookseller of choice, but as several books with the same title exist, be sure to purchase the book by the correct author (listed below). You may also borrow/buy a copy from a previous HEI student.

The book: *Genesis* by Bernard Beckett

ISBN: 0547225490 (hardcover) or 054733592X (paperback)

The assignment is two-fold:

1. Answer the questions on the back of this handout as you read.
2. Respond to **one** of writing prompts (A, B, C, or D) through a five-paragraph essay of approximately two full pages, with a minimum of one quotation from the novel per body paragraph. Your essay should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. (*Example outline template attached*)
 - A. Through the plot development and the outcome of the novel, what is a message (theme) that the author might be portraying regarding humans and machines? Choose three scenes, characters, or situations that exemplify your chosen theme,
 - B. Compare and contrast Adam and Art. You may want to consider their characterization, developments, as well as the meanings behind their names. What message (theme) might the author be illustrating through their relationship?
 - C. What purpose or effect is created through the use of so many Greek and Biblical allusions? Choose at least three allusions and explain the significance of each and the overall effect of the author's choice to use frequent allusions.
 - D. Plot structure: The novel is is a departure from the traditional structure of a novel which relies mostly on narration to progress the plot. How are the author's choices of plot structure and narration effective for this story?

Contact information: (If you have a question, we recommend sending it to both of us, as teachers will not be assigned to individual students until later in the summer.)

Kevin Gacka - kgacka@wsccloud.org

Joanna Stubenrauch - jstubenrauch@wsccloud.org

1. An **allusion** is reference to a well-known entity (historical or literary figure, event, or literature) outside of the text. Explain to whom/what the following allusions from the novel refer (You may google these).
 - A. Genesis
 - B. Aotearoa
 - C. Anaximander
 - D. Adam
 - E. Rebekah
 - F. Joseph
 - G. Eve
 - H. Plato
 - I. The Republic
 - J. Pericles
 - K. Forde (look up Henry Ford):

2. What is **artificial intelligence**?

3. Why name the robot “Art”?

4. How does the question-and-answer plot structure reveal the depth of the conflict as the examination progresses?

5. Define **spirit** in your own words. How does Anax define human spirit? (p.7)

6. What do the numerous allusions convey about the author’s attitude toward human intelligence, artificial intelligence, creation, and education?

7. Read Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave” (separate handout). Note any connections you make to *Genesis* in the margins of the reading.

Sample Literary Analysis Essay Outline

I. Introductory Paragraph

- A. Hook:
- B. Background information
 - 1. Author and title
 - 2. Time period
 - 3. Characters
 - 4. Brief summary
- C. Central Claim (argument that you will support across your essay)

II. Body Paragraphs

- A. Support Claim 1 (Topic sentence that provides the first reason to support central claim)
 - 1. Evidence (Quote or example from the text to illustrate argument)
 - a. Warrant (Explanation of how evidence proves claim)
 - 2. Evidence (Quote or example to illustrate argument)
 - a. Warrant (Explanation of how evidence proves claim)
 - 3. Conclusion (Connect information from paragraph to larger central claim)
- B. Support Claim 2:
 - 1. Evidence (Quote or example to illustrate argument)
 - a. Warrant (Explanation of how evidence proves claim)
 - 2. Evidence (Quote or example to illustrate argument)
 - b. Warrant (Explanation of how evidence proves claim)
 - 3. Conclusion

(repeat body paragraph structure for third body paragraph)

*For a literary analysis essay, you do not need a counter-argument paragraph.

III. Conclusion Paragraph

- A. Restate central claim / sum up main points
- B. Application to Society—what do we learn about human nature, culture, history, or individuals from this text?

****Your essay will be evaluated based on organization, strength of claims, relevance of evidence, ability to move beyond summary toward analysis, and adherence to correct mechanics, usage, grammar and spelling. We want you to show off the strength of your abilities that you have learned and practiced so far.**