

# ENGLISH II HONORS

## Summer Reading Assignment 2021

Writing assignment for *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende. Submit on Schoology.

Write two well-written paragraphs for each of the following prompts, referring to and quoting from the text:

1. In *The House of the Spirits* the character of Esteban Trueba evokes many, many feelings from us - hatred, disgust, anger, even joy at his trials and tribulations. and perhaps even affection for this complex character. In this story, besides the atrocities he commits against so many other characters, many good things come from his presence in his various communities. **Discuss the question of whether or not the good he does outweighs or at least mitigates the bad he does, or whether or not the bad negates the good.**

\*list the good/ bad, their results, how good outweighs the bad, or how the bad outweighs the good.

2. In a course entitled “Tragedy and Redemption in Modern Literature,” a particular group of students believed that the spirits, the psychic phenomena, and the telekinetic events in *The House of the Spirits* were explainable as agents of Satan, demons of the underworld, entities of the devil and general forces of darkness. Argue for or against these students’ beliefs, USING THE TEXT TO SUPPORT YOUR STANCE. Beware of overlaying the text with your own beliefs.

\*include examples of Clara’s powers - telekinesis, specific clairvoyance, seeing and being seen.

3. Discuss the effect of the supernatural phenomena on the meaning of the story. State what they add to the story, and what happens when they go away.

4. Compare and contrast the story - i.e., plot, tone, atmosphere - **before and after** the death of Clara.

**CHOOSE ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK: Be prepared for a test upon return to school.**

*THE QUEEN’S GAMBIT* by WALTER TEVIS

Young girl learns chess, overcomes life in an orphanage, and becomes grandmaster.

*THE BEET QUEEN* by LOUISE ERDRICH

After being orphaned in a most peculiar way, Mary seeks refuge in the butcher shop of their aunt and her husband; an exhilarating forty-year saga brimming with colorful, unforgettable characters: ordinary Mary, who will cause a miracle; Karl, who lacks his sister’s gift for survival;

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Sita, their lovely but disturbed cousin; and the half-Native American Celestine James, who will become Mary's best friend.

*THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES* by SUE MONK KIDD

Quirky, highly perceptive portrayal of life in the deep south; the serious issues of racism and religion are shown - not in the usual hackneyed way, but with irreverence and humor; a colorful group of eccentric sisters with a love for life

*BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS* by DAI SIJIE

Two hapless boys are exiled to a remote village for re-education during China's Cultural revolution. There they find a stash of banned Western Classic books and enter worlds they never imagined.

Email the teacher if you have any questions:

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