

Summer Reading

AP 12

The Plague by Albert Camus

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Directed Reading

The Novel

As you read The Plague, highlight and define unfamiliar vocabulary, imagery that you find especially effective, explaining why it is effective, and figurative language, explaining its purpose at this place in the novel. This can be accomplished easily since you have experience marking a text.

Respond to the following questions in your Summer Reading Journal:

1. A. Define the denotative meaning of plague.  
B. List the connotative implications of the word plague from your own readings, observations, experience.

Part One and Two

2. Why does Camus include graphic descriptions of physical effects of the plague?
3. Identify three descriptions:  
Quote the passage. Identify page number and paragraph.  
Respond to the example of how this passage develops the tone in Part One and Two.
4. The Narrator refers to the work as a "chronicle." How does a chronicle differ from a novel?
5. Record words and phrases used to describe Oran.

Part Three

6. All cultures, of necessity, develop patterns and rituals related to death.  
Why? Discuss how this is true in The Plague.
7. Identify specific changes in Oran's handling of death.
8. Identify three descriptions:  
Quote the passage. Identify page number and paragraph.  
Respond to the example of how this passage develops the tone in part Three.

Part Four

9. Friendship  
Friends are often drawn together by both their similarities and their differences. Similarities provide a common base of interests and attitudes: differences enable the two people to complement each other. Use a graphic comparison such as a Venn diagram or another of your choosing to identify factors that help form the friendship of Rieux and Tarrou, showing how they are different and what they have in common.
10. Identify three descriptions:  
  
Quote the passage. Identify page number and paragraph. Respond to the example of how this passage develops the tone in Part Four.

11. Novel Characterization

To what extent does each character grow or deteriorate during the course of the novel?  
Why? Use specific quotes and examples.

Cottard Joseph Grand Father Panelous Raymond Rambert Dr. Bernard Rieux Jean Tarrou

12. Identify three descriptions.

Quote the passage Identify page number and paragraph. Respond to the example of how this passage develops the tone in Part V.

13. In Part Five, the plague leaves Oran as inexplicably as it arrived. The narrator closes the chronicle, with his own philosophical ruminations.

What is ironic about Tarrou's death?

What is ironic about Rieux's revelation that he is the narrator?

What evidence suggests that the plague is erupting in Oran even as the literal plague subsides?

Could a plague attack a city in our modern world? Why or why not?

Enjoy the summer reading! You may purchase a copy of the novel at RK News in Kenosha. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [cpastor@kUSD.edu](mailto:cpastor@kUSD.edu).