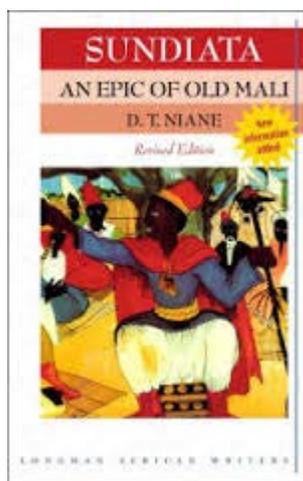


World Literature and Composition Honors

Summer Reading 2018

M. Leden mleden@teachers.kusd.edu

This year's summer reading is *The Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*.



ISBN-13: 978-1405849425 ISBN-10: 9781405849425

Since this is a translated text and there are different versions, please find one translated by D.T. Niane. For those on a budget, Amazon.com has many used copies available at affordable prices. It is not necessary that you purchase a new copy--you will write in and mark this copy, so it will no longer be new when you are finished with the project! One may also choose to download and print a copy.

Purpose

The Sundiata is a heroic tale of adventure, betrayal, and destiny—part history, part legend—so it shares some of the same elements as other great epics like *The Odyssey* & *The Iliad*, by Homer—you might even note parallels to modern stories such as *The Lord of the Rings* or *The Hunger Games*. In fact, *The Sundiata* is one of several inspirations that Disney

creators seem to have drawn from to create *The Lion King*.

Assignment, Part 1: First Try (like a rough draft) Due September 8, 2018

- Read the entire story (only 84 pages!)
- Support your reading with background information (included in the introduction and end notes).
- Annotate the text thoroughly by labeling or explaining in the margins (basically, every page):
 - familiar **plot devices** (story elements that remind you of things from your previous reading and movie watching)
 - “typical” **character types**
 - universal **objects** or images (symbols)
 - **motifs** (recurring patterns)

Note on annotating: This should not consist of mainly plot summaries and fireworks-style oohs and ahhs, but rather synthesizing information and making connections which should be seen through the **labels** (text to text, text to self, text to world).

For example, in the margins of a given page, you should note when characters like “the hero” emerge, and the various events or dialogue that contribute to his or her emergence. What struggles does the hero undergo as a youth? Who mentors him/her? Is there a critical moment when the character breaks out and becomes a “hero?” Does he/she receive an emblem, weapon, and/or a warrior’s wound?

Do your best to locate and annotate storytelling that contributes to cross-cultural, cross time-period story ideas such as: good vs. evil, the trials and odyssey of a hero, sibling rivalry, the father-to-son legacy, etc. A few “typical” character types include: the hero, the mentor, the hero’s companion, the coward, the traitor, the maiden, the witch/hag, the villain, etc. In some sections of this epic, your margins might be full; in others, margin notes might be scarce.

Above all else, enjoy both the book and your summer vacation--the epic journey is just beginning! During the first weeks of the school year, additional annotations may be added, and we will have some time for questions and discussions. The final due date for the annotated book will be several weeks into first quarter.

Summer Reading Community

2nd Quarter & Semester 2 Honors Reading Note:

While many of the World Literature units are the same for honors and regular classes, students in Honors World Literature will complete the summer reading project and two additional novel units.

During 2^{nd/3rd} quarter, students will read *Jane Eyre*, *Thirteenth Tale*, or *Bellman and Black*. By that point in class, students will be studying more modern story forms, and students should be familiar with a gothic piece. Part of our emphasis during second semester will be examining good and evil and how these nebulous terms are explored in both fiction and non-fiction. Certainly, it is also important for us to read more female authors, and Charlotte Bronte is one of the true groundbreakers of literature. Details about how to interact with *a gothic piece* will be forthcoming once the school year is underway. Note: Other alternative readings for this unit might be added before the beginning of 2nd quarter.

During 2nd semester, students will read either *Lord of the Flies* or *Metamorphosis*. These novels are an experiment in societal evils—with a hint at what lies underneath the surface of our social order. Details about how to interact with *modern texts* will be forthcoming once the school year is underway. Note: Other alternative readings for this unit might be added before the beginning of 2nd semester.