

READING RECORD CARDS

One of the major problems that confronts students taking the Advanced Placement Examinations in Literature is the Free Response question, which requires that the student choose a work from his own reading experience to support his answer. The Book Analysis is one means that you use to prepare for this event; another means is the system called Reading Record Cards.

You will create a computer file in which you will record information about EVERY BOOK that you have *ever read* that is of literary merit, using one-half page (a "Reading Record Card") for each work. You will maintain the file in alphabetical order by author. You will use these as a flashcard review system to prepare for the AP test. To insure that you do not procrastinate, I require that you turn in these sheets for checking during the semester; SEE YOUR SYLLABUS FOR DUE DATES. The first requirement is twenty works, with more to be added later. You will create a Reading Record Card for each Book Analysis and turn it in with the Analysis.

The format for the "cards" is:

Student name and class period	card #
TITLE	AUTHOR (date born-date died/where lived)
publication date of work [original, not current edition]	
SETTING-place/time	
THEME OR MAIN IDEA: [in one declarative sentence]	
Brief PLOT SYNOPSIS:	
CHARACTERS [with brief descriptions] [identify Protagonist and Antagonist]	
Major SYMBOLS, Patterns of Symbols, or ALLUSIONS present	
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS of the work	
A quotation from the work which is representative of the theme of the work as a whole, with page number of source	

Number the cards on the front in the top right corner.

The top card in the stack should be a "Table of Contents" for the stack, listing all the works for which you have made cards.

NOTE: "Brief" means "BRIEF": you should not use more than one-half page for each work!

Minimum acceptable font size is 10 point Times.

You may abbreviate, but use standard abbreviations so that you don't forget what they mean. Remember to make a backup copy of this file on disk or other medium separate from the hard drive of your computer, just in case. Always save and backup before you print. Set your word-processing software to save automatically at intervals of about 10 minutes.

NOTE: Submitting summaries downloaded from or based on Web sites such as SparkNotes or Pink Monkey constitutes Plagiarism, which is cheating. This is NOT acceptable and will be dealt with severely.

P.S.: Students who have used this system faithfully say that it helped them get a better score on the AP test; students who have not used it honestly say that they wish they had.

(The adverb honestly in the sentence above can modify either used or say; the statement is true both ways.)