

# Honors English I & II Study Guide

From Simple Studies, <https://simplestudies.edublogs.org> & @simplestudiesinc on Instagram

## **Table of Contents**

### **How to Write an Analysis Essay**

Pg. 2: MLA Format

Pgs. 3-5: Literary Devices

Pgs. 6-7: Intro Paragraph

Pg. 8: Thesis Statement

Pgs. 9-11: Body Paragraphs

Pg. 12: Conclusion

### **Honors English I**

Pg. 13: Books Covered

Pg. 14-15: 1984 by George Orwell

Pgs. 16-17: The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

Pgs. 18-19: A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

### **Honors English II**

Pgs. 20-21: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Pgs. 22-23: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Pgs. 24-25: A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansbury

## **MLA Format**

Starting freshman year, most teachers will ask that you write your essays in MLA Format.

- ☐ Your last name and page number are the headers of each page
- ☐ 1 in. indents around the entire page
- ☐ Double-spaced
- ☐ Legible font (Times New Roman preferred)
- ☐ 12 pt. font size
- ☐ Indent the first line of every paragraph by ½ in.
- ☐ Title: 12 pt. font size & centered in paper
- ☐ Blurb on the top left corner of the first page including: Your full name  
Professor/Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Class  
Deadline for submission

Many teachers will ignore essays that are not written in MLA format, so use the checklist above to make sure that you are proficient in using this format. It is something small that goes a long way for teachers.

### **MLA Format Citations:**

Creating the citations in MLA format is more difficult, however, there are multiple platforms that take the links you give them and create a works cited page for you. Linked below is my personal favorite.

[EasyBib Free MLA Citation](#)

For both Honors English I and II, it is necessary to know how to write an essay that analyzes the author's use of literary devices, and to be able to tie those devices back into a specific purpose statement. These skills will eventually transfer into AP Language & AP Literature!

## **Literary Devices:**

\*Choose a few and get good at using/analyzing them!

**Allegory:** a story that is used to depict more than is seen at the surface

- Ex. *In the Grinch story, there is more going on than meets the eye.*

**Allusion:** a reference to a specific event/person/thing without an actual mention

- Ex. *John loved going to the gym, but running was his Achilles heel.*

**Analogy:** comparing two ideas, used for further clarification

- Ex. *“Life is like a box of chocolates - you never know what you are going to get”.*

**Anaphora:** repeated phrases or words at the beginning of sentences or phrases

- Ex. *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,” — A Tale of Two Cities*

**Chiasmus:** two clauses are connected, but inverted

- Ex. *“Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”*  
— John F. Kennedy

**Dramatic Irony:** the reader knows more about the circumstances than a character(s)

- Ex. *In Romeo & Juliet, the audience knows Juliet is asleep as Romeo kills himself.*

**Euphemism:** a nice way of saying something that can be inappropriate at the time

- Ex. *parents telling kids they “sent away” a dog that actually died.*

**Flashback:** writing about an event that occurred before the writing

- Ex. *On March 13, I could have never guessed what was about to happen.*

**Foreshadowing:** hinting at something that will happen in the future

- Ex. *weapon mentioned early in the novel then used later.*

**Hyperbole:** over or under exaggerating a statement

- Ex. *I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.*

**Imagery:** vivid descriptions that create a visual in the reader’s head

- Ex. *auditory (hear), gustatory (taste), tactile (touch), olfactory (smell), visual (see)*  
→ \_\_\_\_\_imagery

**Juxtaposition:** two entirely different ideas are used to relay the same purpose

- Ex. *Yin and yang; “good” and “bad” work together harmoniously.*

**Malapropism:** replacing a word with one that sounds similar to it

- *Ex. I'm going to go dance a flamingo (it should be flamenco).*

**Metaphor:** a phrase compared to something that it could not literally be compared to

- *Ex. Life is a rollercoaster.*

**Motif:** a distinctive phrase that is repeated multiple times

- *Ex. Mockingjay in The Hunger Games.*

**Oxymoron:** two words that contradict each other but describe the same idea

- *Ex. Act natural.*

**Paradox:** using irregular analogies to make a point

- *Ex. My weaknesses are my strengths.*

**Polysyndeton:** using “and” instead of commas

- *Ex. There were apples and oranges and bananas and mangoes.*

**Repetition:** using the same words or phrases over and over again

- *Ex. People of this nation deserve a president they can respect, a president they can serve, a president they can love.*

**Rhetorical Question:** asking a question to make a point rather than for an answer

- *Ex. Do dogs bark?*

**Simile:** comparison of two things using the word “like” or “as”

- *Ex. He kicked the soccer ball as fast as a sports car.*

**Symbolism:** a word or phrase that represents (or “symbolizes”) a distinct idea

- *Ex. Mockingjay in The Hunger Games represents a revolution.*

These are saved for last because they can be used on **EVERY** excerpt or book! (yes, all of them)

- Do not leave these devices without an adjective. You cannot say the author portrays tone. Every author has a tone, what makes it unique is that it is a specific kind. There are many examples listed below.

**Tone:** the “mood” the author sets for the reader

Types of Tone: **Positive** → Appreciative, Brave, Cheery, Comical, Compassionate, Direct,

Ecstatic, Earnest, Energetic, Enthusiastic, Illuminating, Light, Optimistic,

Pleasant,

Proud, Satiric, Soothing, Stern, Sympathetic, Straightforward, Strong

**Other** → Assertive, Calm, Candid, Confident, Factual, Fervent, Formal,

Informal,

Informative, Instructive, Intimate, Ironic, Nostalgic, Persuasive, Reflective,

Questioning, Sentimental, Shocked, Straightforward, Strong, Urgent,

**Negative** → Angry, Annoyed, Antagonistic, Bitter, Condescending, Dark,

Foreboding, Frightened, Gloomy, Garsh, Hopeless, Pessimistic, Sardonic,

Scornful,

Tense, Violent

**Diction:** the specific type of words the author is using to relay their purpose

Types of Diction: Ambiguous, Abstract, Colloquial, Concrete, Connotative, Denotative,

Didactic,

Elevated, Emotional, Formal, Figurative, Informal, Loaded, Moralistic,

Pedantic,

Plain, Poetic, Pretentious, Sharp, Simple, Vivid

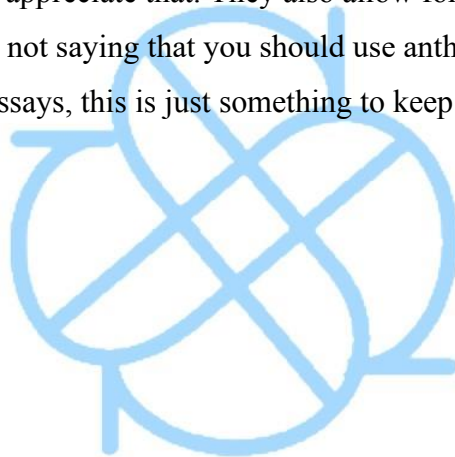
**Syntax:** how words are ordered when writing a sentence

**Types of Syntax:**

Declarative: an assertive statement	Staccato: short, quick sentences
Interrogative: asking questions	Telegraphic: short, bad grammar
Long & Involved: 30+ words per	Simple: childlike, one ind. clause
Compound: 2 independent clauses	Complex: ind. clause & dep. clause
Periodic: purpose not apparent until the end of the statement	
Balanced: parallel structures of around the same length/significance	

**PRO TIP #1:** Not all literary devices are equal!

What do we mean? Using simile or imagery in your essay is okay, but it requires far deeper analysis than juxtaposition or colloquial diction, for example. Less common literary devices are harder to connect and teachers appreciate that. They also allow for more interpretation to be tied back to the purpose. Now, I'm not saying that you should use anthropomorphism and bildungsroman in all of your essays, this is just something to keep in mind.



## **Intro Paragraph**

There are different ways to approach writing an intro paragraph, and we will go over some of the best ways. Take the first 3-4 sentences to contextualize and introduce your essay, and leave the last sentence for the thesis. Below are 4 specific ways to write an introduction paragraph.

**PRO TIP #2:** When your teacher has you create a title for your essay, don't stress about it in the beginning. If you think of one right away, great! If not, it usually comes to you as your writing. Nonetheless, if you are at the end of your essay and you still can't come up with a title, try identifying a motif (one of the literary devices above!) or a short and sweet holistic phrase that sums up the story!

Now, on to actually writing the introduction. All the examples will be simplified and use the Tortoise and the Hare story so that you can truly understand the idea of writing an introduction.

### **1. Contradict a common idea**

Start out this type of introduction by stating a common, shallow perception of the excerpt or novel you are writing about, and do this in 1-3 sentences. Next, oppose this idea with another sentence and then your thesis statement.

Example: *Many readers assume The Tortoise and the Hare is a simple story about a race between two unequal opponents. The Tortoise proves otherwise, using his expertise to win what seemed an impossible race. (Insert Thesis)*

### **2. Hook quote from the novel**

The first line of this type of intro paragraph includes a quote directly from the novel/excerpt that when taken out of context, seems absurd. After stating the quote, you should rationalize it and lead the message of that quote into your thesis, which you will write after this part.

Example: *“Slow and steady wins the race.” Almost everyone is aware of this quote, as The Tortoise and the Hare is a popular story depicting the significance of patience and consistency. Yet, very few individuals have succeeded in carrying out these principles in their own lives. This story does more than just tell how to succeed, but it shows how. (Insert thesis)*

### **3. Hook quote from an outside source**

Choose a quote that pertains to the purpose of your essay and use it to give a background to the reader. Select a quote that grabs the attention of the reader and make sure it contains more of a holistic point of view. Use a few sentences to do this.

Example: *“The key to success is consistency.” - Zak Frazer. While almost everyone has heard this quote, not everyone practices it. The Tortoise proves this quote to be true when he races the Hare, who is much faster than him and beats him through confidence and consistency. (Insert thesis)*

### **4. Give background information**

For this type of introduction paragraph, you are telling the reader what you will be writing about without using a specific skill. Later in the paragraph, you will be analyzing specific pieces of information, so right now, just focus on finding a way to summarize the basic information.

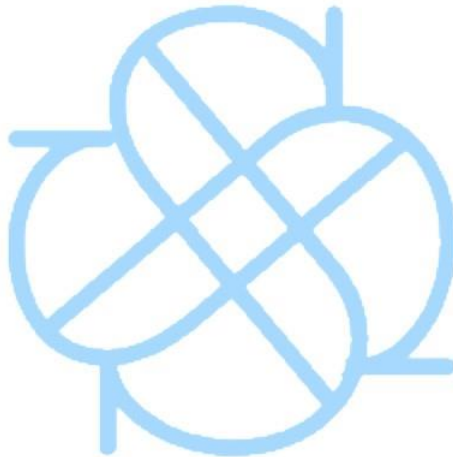
Example: *The Tortoise and the Hare is a story about two animals. The Hare, fast and young, is constantly teasing the Tortoise, slow and old. As a result, the Tortoise challenges the Hare to a race, knowing that he is slower. The wise tortoise continues at his steady pace, while the hare races ahead, so far ahead he takes a nap. In the end, the Tortoise wins the race. (Insert thesis)*



### 5. Ask a question at the beginning of the paragraph

Ask the reader an absurd or rhetorical question as the first line of your intro paragraph. Answer in a non-obvious way. This question can intrigue the reader into continuing to read your piece.

Example: *A tortoise can't possibly win a race over a hare, can it? In this case, it can. In the story of the Tortoise and the Hare, a slow, yet wise tortoise acquires victory over a speedy hare through the practice of patience and consistency. (Insert thesis)*



## Thesis Statement

Writing a thesis may seem confusing at first, but once you have it down you'll be able to whip them out in minutes. Try to fit it in one sentence, but know that two sentences are okay as well.

**What does a thesis contain?** A thesis contains the author's name, the name of the piece that is being written about, literary devices being analyzed, and a purpose. Below is an example of a thesis displaying mastery skills. You really don't need anything else.

**Example:** While emphasizing the significance of words and storytelling in *Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries*, Stamper appeals to the reader's pathos concerning language and uses a reflective tone to make the audience aware of the painstaking, yet thrilling job of a lexicographer.

- **The author's name:** refer to the author by their full name or their last name
- **Name of excerpt:** if you are reading from an excerpt of a book or novel, use italics; if you are analyzing a short story or poem, use quotation marks
- **Literary Devices:** simply list out the literary devices you plan on analyzing in the body paragraphs by saying (insert author's name) utilized, employed, used, etc.
- **Purpose:** write specifically what the author is using the literary devices to prove; the purpose should be a holistic, yet not cliché statement that is defensible (this is the hardest part)

**PRO TIP #3:** Make sure your thesis is defensible! Defensible means that you can defend your position on the idea, but it also has another perspective that could be argued. Due to this, there is no "right" or "wrong" answer. As long as you use evidence and reasoning to prove your point, you should be okay.

## **Body Paragraphs**

Depending on the number of literary devices you use, the number of body paragraphs you have could change. Most people write 2-3. If you are doing a timed essay, we would recommend 2 body paragraphs. But if you have an extended period, using 3 could be a good way to strengthen your point.

### **How is a body paragraph organized? REPEAT 2-3x**

1. Topic Sentence
  2. Quote #1 - Analysis #1  
Quote #2 - Analysis #2  
Quote #3 - Analysis #3 (Optional)
  3. Conclusion Sentence
- 

### **Topic Sentence**

Introduce the reader to what you are going to write about. Let's refer to the thesis written above. The first literary device used is appealing to the pathos of the reader regarding language. Therefore, the topic sentence of the first body paragraph would look something like this:

“In this excerpt, Stamper appeals to the reader's pathos through the use of metaphors and a rhetorical question, implying that words and language hold great meaning and can be used to express one's true feelings, dreams and emotions to the world.”

Repeat the literary device being used, and go deeper than what was said in the thesis statement by expanding on the purpose of the author using this literary device. It is necessary to prepare and accustom the reader to what they are about to read.

## Quote - Analysis

First, finding a good quote. Find quotes that include a literary device while simultaneously addressing the purpose of the novel. Here is an example of a quote that includes a metaphor while also diving deep into the purpose of the story.

“Watching the connection happen is like watching nuclear fission in miniature: there is a flash behind the eyes,” - Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries

After inserting the quote, use a connecting phrase such as “in order to” or “for the purpose of” to tie the quote to the purpose. This creates a seamless transition and makes it easier for you to stay on track. Next, you will have to describe the importance of the quote.

“in order to convey the impact words have on babies who are just learning them, and how that curiosity never goes away for lexicographers. To Stamper, words have an amazing power to tell stories and mean something similar, yet personal to everyone who uses them, even if they don’t think about it on the same level that lexicographers do.”

Establish a line of reasoning that goes back to your thesis statement. Make sure you are focusing on WHY the author wrote this and HOW this plays back into your purpose. A lexicographer is someone who works with dictionaries, and the author’s intention is to represent the thrilling adrenaline of the job. In this line of reasoning/analysis, the purpose is written, connects to the quote, and connects to the thesis.

- You are going to do this 2-3x per paragraph, depending on how much time you have and how much you feel is necessary. Remember, a third piece of evidence can help or hurt you in the long run.

## Conclusion Sentence

For the conclusion sentence at the end of each body paragraph, try to summarize the paragraph in a single sentence. Focus once again on the overarching purpose, and keep it at one sentence if you can.

“Stamper’s purpose is for the reader to realize the substance and value words people choose have, and for the reader to understand how her background gave her this knowledge.”

Notice how it explicitly states, “Stamper’s purpose is”. Although it is beneficial to vary your sentence starters and include formal diction, keep in mind that simpler can be better when you need to get your point across.

---

Combine all of this and you have a body paragraph! Repeat this process 2-3x for your analysis essay. If you have more time, shoot for 3! However, it is completely normal to write 2 body paragraphs when under a time constraint. When you have ~45 minutes to write an entire essay, focus on doing less, but doing it better.

## **Conclusion Paragraph**

This is the final part of your essay! There are many different approaches to writing a conclusion paragraph, so let's walk through some examples and must-dos.

**MUST DO:** Restate the thesis as the first sentence of the conclusion paragraph. Phrase it similarly, yet not exactly the same. At the end of the essay, the reader will be reminded of the purpose and prepared for the closing statements.

### **1. Connect to the first paragraph**

By the time you are in your conclusion paragraph, you should have already written your introduction paragraph. Most of the time, students don't have the time to write an extensive introduction paragraph where they truly get everything they wanted to say off their chest. If this is you, take the conclusion as an opportunity to dig deeper into whatever it is you chose to talk about in the introductory paragraph.

### **2. Primary and secondary sources**

This type of conclusion paragraph is better suited for a literary analysis with an extended deadline or where you have background information on the author. This is because you can learn about the author and talk about how their life experiences led them to write the piece. For example, if they have a biography or autobiography, you can pull information from there and include it in your purpose statement.

### **3. Compare to current or past events**

Even when analyzing a novel, it can be good to compare the happenings to something else that happened in the real world. Compare and contrast the overall effects these two "stories" have and what made them similar/unique. This can add an interesting perspective to how things changed and stayed the same over time and years of changing human life.

**PRO TIP #4:** Under no circumstances should you write "in conclusion", "overall", "in summary" or any phrases that invoke the same childish tone that these words do. Although it seems fitting, it does not give your writing the sense of sophistication it deserves.

## **Honors English I: Books Covered**

The books read in this class may vary from school to school, so below I have listed some staples that most classes seem to cover.

If your class read any of the following books, click [here](#).

- The Iliad by Homer
- Odyssey by Homer
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
- The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline
- The Hobbit by J.R.R Tolkien

If you want an ever deeper analysis of Romeo and Juliet, click [here](#).

These books have already been covered in an English study guide made by Simple Studies, so to get the most diverse content, this study guide won't be going over them. However, these study guides do an amazing job of covering these books, and you should check them out!

Below is the list of books/poems that will be covered for Honors English I.

- 1984 by George Orwell
- The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
- A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
- Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury

For these books, there will be character descriptions, plot summaries, and useful quotes for analysis!

# **1984 by George Orwell**

## **Characters**

- **Winston Smith** - rather small man in Oceania who carries the weight of rebellious thoughts against the totalitarian regime of Big Brother. He is a member of the Outer Circle, where he slaves away at the profit of The Party. Fatalistic.
- **Big Brother** - is big brother a person? Is “it” an idea? All we know is that “BIG BROTHER IS ALWAYS WATCHING YOU”.
- **Julia** - Winston’s lover. She has dark hair and enjoys having sex with Party members secretly. She is extremely optimistic and doesn’t carry the same hatred Winston does.
- **Mr. Charrington** - he owns a bookstore in Oceania. He sold Winston a diary and gives him and Julia a room to have sex without telescreens. Winston thinks he is against the Party, but he is really a member of the Thought Police.
- **O’Brien** - an intriguing man in the Inner Circle who Winston believes is a member of the Brotherhood and wishes to destroy the totalitarian government
- **Parsons** - Winston’s fat neighbor who works at the Ministry of Truth, his kids are Junior Spies who call out adults for thoughtcrime

## **Plot Summary**

Winston Smith is a citizen of Oceania, where Big Brother is their people through telescreens. The Party rules everyone, and this includes changing history, eliminating free speech, and creating Newspeak, a language that eradicates the chance of rebellion by removing words. Thoughtcrime is the worst, and this entails thinking illegal thoughts. Winston secretly hates the Party. However, he does the dirty work and is employed at the Ministry of Truth, where he changes news to fit the party’s narrative. He notices irregularities and learns about the Brotherhood’s leader, Emmanuel Goldstein.



As a personal rebellion against Oceania and its laws, Winston buys a diary behind closed doors to write down his illegal thoughts. The Brotherhood is an apparent secret organization against the Party, and Winston suspects a man named O'Brien as a member. When at work, Winston fears that a woman named Julia is going to punish him for thoughtcrime, instead, she gives him a message that says she loves him. As a result, they begin meeting to have sex in a room above the bookstore he bought his illegal diary at. Sex is illegal. Winston is always waiting for the day that he and Julia will get caught, but something interrupts. Finally, O'Brien contacts him.

O'Brien invites Winston and Julia to his Inner Circle party with members of the Brotherhood. He gets a copy of Goldstein's manifesto and reads it to Julia above the notorious bookstore, where the owner reveals himself as thoughtcrime police and arrests the two. Winston is taken to the Ministry of Love, where he finds out that O'Brien was luring him into illegal actions. Winston spends months getting destroyed mentally and physically and barely holds himself together. However, he manages to do it. He is then taken to Room 101.

Room 101 is designed to be his worst nightmare, involving his phobia of rats. Winston wishes his pain onto Julia, which is the last straw for O'Brien, who considers himself successful. Therefore, he releases Winston, a broken man, out to the real world where he becomes the best citizen Big Brother could ever ask for, and the hate in his heart disappears.

#### **Useful Quotes (all are directly from 1984):**

**"War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength." → Paradox**

**"Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past." → Paradox**

**"We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness." → Hopeful tone**

**"But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought." → Chiasmus**

**"Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious." → Chiasmus**

**"Doublethink means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them." → Juxtaposition**

# The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

## Characters

- **Shylock** - lives in Venice, a moneylender, Jewish, grossly mistreated by the Christians, makes a deal with Antonio & Bassanio for a pound of flesh knowing they can't pay it back
- **Antonio** - truly hates Jews, is depressed, takes the risk for his friend Bassanio (who he is probably in love with), promises a pound of his flesh if he can't return Shylock's money
- **Portia** - a beautiful, intelligent heiress from Belmont, has to choose her spouse from three caskets, schemes into marrying her love, Bassanio, helps save Antonio from dying
- **Bassanio** - needs the money so he can choose Portia's correct casket, which he does end up doing
- **Gratiano** - accompanies Bassanio on the trip to Belmont, falls in love with Nerissa, Portia's lady in waiting
- **Lorenzo** - friends with Gratiano and Bassanio, a Christian man in love with Jessica
- **Jessica** - Shylock's daughter, Jewish, runs away from dad for Lorenzo

## Plot Summary

Antonio sulks around Venice's bars with a sadness that he can't put his finger on. Antonio's friend, Bassanio, needs money to pursue Portia in Belmont, but Antonio's money is invested in ships that are still at sea. Instead, Antonio recommends that Bassanio go to Shylock where Antonio will guarantee his loan. Portia is expectant upon Bassanio so that she can help him choose the correct casket with Portia's picture in it, as this is what her father finds necessary in a spouse.

The two men head to Venice to see Shylock, however, Shylock has a hidden grudge against Antonio. Antonio has harassed him for being Jewish and sells no-interest loans. Shylock agrees to give them 3,000 ducats with 0% interest, the only stipulation is that Antonio must give a pound of flesh if Bassanio can't pay the money back in 2 months. Meanwhile, in Belmont, the Prince of Morocco chooses the gold casket for Portia, the wrong one. The prince of Arragon chooses the silver casket, also the wrong one. Portia knows the lead casket is correct, and Bassanio doesn't wait long upon arrival to declare his love and choose the correct casket. At this time, Shylock finds out that Jessica escaped for Lorenzo, but is rejoiced at the fact that Antonio's ships have crashed.

Gratiano and Nerissa fall in love, so the two couples decide to have a double wedding. Both women give their men a ring, saying this is something they can never give away. Soon after, Antonio calls the 4 to tell them that his ships have wrecked and he is forced to give a pound of flesh to Shylock. Gratiano and Bassanio rush back to Venice, and Portia and Nerissa secretly decide to dress up like men and help free Antonio.

Shylock is taken to court by the duke of Venice, who gives the floor to a legal expert (Portia). She begins by asking Shylock for mercy, he refuses. Bassanio offers double the money knowing he can get it from Portia, he refuses. Then, she says it is true, Shylock is entitled to 1 pound of flesh. Before Shylock gets too excited, she adds that if any blood is shed, the contract is void. Shylock accepts the money, but Portia says he either gets what is in the contract or nothing. He chooses nothing. Portia takes it one step further and claims he was plotting murder, so he has to give up half of his land to the state, half of his land to Antonio, and die. Instead, they come to the

agreement he gets to keep half of his property and has to convert to Christianity, Antonio gets the other half, and when he dies his will must leave the land for Jessica and Lorenzo.

Bassanio and Gratiano still don't know that the lawyer and "his" clerk are Portia and Nerissa. The two girls ask for their promise rings, to see how their future husbands react. Foolishly, they give them up. The girls are waiting for the two men at Portia's estate, and they ask what happened to the rings. The men are at a loss for words, but Portia gives in easily and tells the men that she was the lawyer and Nerissa was the clerk. They reconcile their issues and find out that Antonio's ships made it back safely. Together, they all celebrate the good turn of events.

**Useful Quotes (all are directly from *The Merchant of Venice*)**

"If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?" → **Rhetorical Question**

"I will buy with you, sell with you, talk with you, walk with you... but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with you" → **Repetition**

"It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings; It is an attribute to God himself," → **Metaphor** (for mercy)

"How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world." → **Symbolism**

# A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

## Characters

- **Charles Darnay** - born into the Evrémonde French aristocracy, moved to England as he was upset with aristocracy, tells Doctor Manette his background, goes back to save Gabelle
- **Sydney Carton** - works with Stryver as an attorney, an alcoholic, ambitionless man, changes to a respectable man for Lucie, looks extremely similar to Darnay
- **Doctor Manette** - in prison for 18 years and went crazy, made shoes to pass time and pain, loves his daughter, once a prominent physician
- **Lucie Manette** - French woman raised in an English ward as her parents were “dead”, compassionate, kind, family-oriented, brings her father happiness again
- **Madame Defarge** - wife of Monsieur Defarge, despises the aristocracy, shows no mercy, spends her time knitting a list of people who she finds necessary to die for the revolution
- **Marquis Evrémonde** - a member of the aristocracy in France, Darnay’s uncle

## Plot Summary

It’s 1775, Jerry Cruncher does weird jobs for Tellson's Bank, and his most recent one is to stop the Dover mail-coach and instruct him to tell Lorry to wait for a young woman at Dover. Lorry brings Lucie Manette to Paris where Monsieur Defarge has been taking care of her father, and they believe he can be “Recalled to life” through her.

5 years later, Darnay is sent to court for being a spy and has Stryver on his team. Stryver is an extremely ambitious lawyer, but Carton saves the day by using their identical faces to say he must be English if he looks like an Englishman. Doctor Manette and his daughter watched the case. Carton shared his feelings for Lucie and questioned Darnay what life is like with a woman like Lucie in his life. Carton is secretly, yet immensely jealous of Darnay for his affiliation with Lucy.

Marquis blames a poor child for getting in his way while traveling and the carriage kills the child. Darnay is in France and Marquis tells him about the child, Darnay removes himself from the Evrémonde name and is on his way to leave until he finds out his uncle was murdered. There was a note left saying “Jacques”, a name that French Revolutionaries often use. One year later, Darnay asks Manette for his approval for Lucie, and promises if Lucie accepts he will reveal his history. Carton tells Lucie he loves her and she has changed him as a man. Lucie accepts Darnay and Manette goes back to his prison self upon hearing of Darnay’s past. Cruncher is now a “Resurrection-Man”, as he takes a man named Cly’s body out of a cemetery and sells it. Darnay welcomes Carton into their home, and Doctor Manette returns to normal after 9 days.

In 1789, the French Revolution began, and aristocrats were killed in the streets. Gabelle works on the Evrémonde estate, gets arrested, and asks Darnay for help. Darnay arrives but is arrested as soon as he gets there. The Manettes come to rescue Darnay, and the Doctor’s time in Bastille prison helps get Darnay out. However, Darnay is sent right back in by Madame Defarge. Carton and Barsad (real name Solomon Pross) create a plan to save Darnay. At Darnay’s trial, Madame Defarge releases a letter she found in Manette’s cell. Manette was imprisoned because Darnay’s dad and uncle raped a woman and stabbed a man, and after asking for his help, realized Manette might report the bodies to someone. They arrested him to save themselves. Darnay is set to die within 24 hours for his family’s bad deeds. Carton hears Defarge saying she will also kill Lucie and her daughter because the two killed were her brother and sister. Carton makes the Manettes leave, drugs Darnay, and switches spots with him. Defarge goes to get Lucie when she sees Pross’s wife. They get in a fight and Defarge ends up shooting herself. Carton dies by guillotine but is more than happy to have finally found purpose in his life.

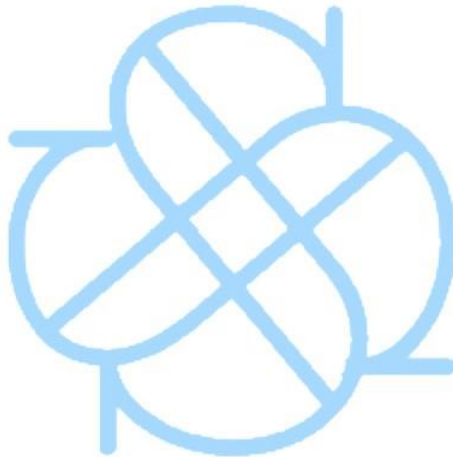
**Useful quotes (all of these are directly from *A Tale of Two Cities*)**

“It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.” → **Repetition, Euphemism**

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,” → **Anaphora, Repetition, Paradox**

“I love your daughter fondly, dearly, disinterestedly, devotedly.” → **Alliteration**

“It would be easier for the weakest poltroon that lives, to erase himself from existence, than to erase one letter of his name or crimes from the knitted register of Madame Defarge.” → **Symbolism**  
“incapable of their directed exercise, incapable of his own help and his own happiness” → **Anaphora**

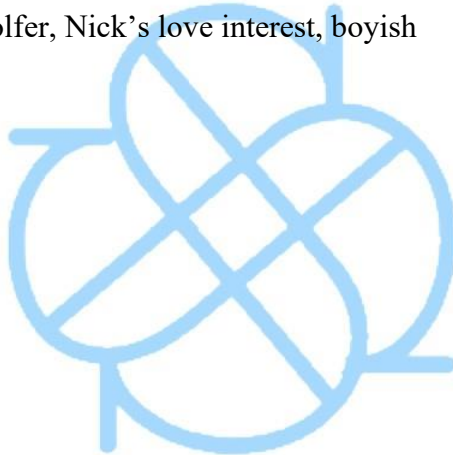


## Honors English II: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

\*\*\* This novel is filled with motifs, keep a lookout while reading!

### Characters

- **Jay Gatsby** - mysteriously rich man who owns a mansion in West Egg (the poorer town), infatuated with Daisy Buchanan, throws parties every Saturday
- **Nick Carraway** - narrator of the novel, lives right next to Gatsby, moved to join the bond business, went to Yale, served in war
- **Daisy Buchanan** - Gatsby's old lover, Nick's cousin, when Gatsby was at war she didn't wait for him, troubled by Tom's infidelity, socialite
- **Tom Buchanan** - Daisy's husband, old money, arrogant, cheating with Myrtle, went to Yale with Nick
- **Jordan Baker** - pro-golfer, Nick's love interest, boyish





## Plot Summary

Nick Carraway came back from war and was looking for something to do, so he took upon the bond business. He moved to a small house in West Egg, right next to Gatsby. Gatsby owns the largest mansion in town, and he has everything man can construct at his fingertips. After being invited to Gatsby's party, he learns that wealth is meaningless to him. What he wants is Daisy Buchanan, and he is throwing these marvelous parties with the hopes that Daisy will show up. Being cousins with Daisy, Nick sets up a drink for them at his house. At this point, Nick didn't know much about the history between the two of them, but Jordan tells him that Daisy and Gatsby were lovers before he went to war. She promised him to stay loyal while he was gone, but when he came back she was with Tom.

Gatsby would tell Nick stories about his past, that his name was actually James Gatz. These stories were extremely inconsistent and often not true. What Nick does know is that Gatsby was involved in criminal acts to get his money.

Through their conversations, Daisy and Gatsby fell back in love. They start spending great amounts of time together and decide they are going to run away and live together forever. All Daisy has to do is tell Tom that she loves Gatsby. Tom, Gatsby, and Daisy are in the room and Gatsby declares that Daisy loves him, and is waiting for her to tell her husband. She can't. Gatsby realizes that he doesn't love Daisy, he loves the idea of Daisy. She has turned into a shallow, cold woman.

Daisy drives Gatsby's car back to New York, and Myrtle thinks it's Tom's car. She runs in front of the car and Daisy kills her. Gatsby takes all the blame for Daisy, and Myrtle's husband George kills Gatsby right before he killed himself. James Gatz and his legacy were now dead. Nick realizes that he was Gatsby's only friend. He tries to arrange a funeral, but no one comes except Gatsby's dad. Even with the countless house parties consisting of hundreds of guests, not one "friend" could come to the wedding. The green light at the end of the dock was Gatsby's hope that he would get Daisy back one day. Nick ended up leaving the east for his original home of the Midwest.

**Useful Quotes (All are directly from *The Great Gatsby*)**

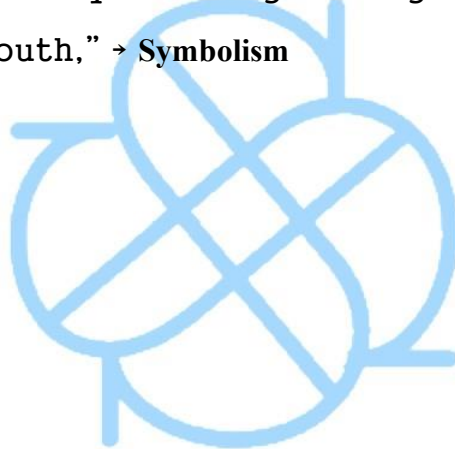
“And I like large parties. They’re so intimate. At small parties there isn’t any privacy.” → **Paradox**

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies,” → **Visual Imagery & Simile**

“At his lips’ touch she blossomed like a flower and the incarnation was complete.” → **Simile**

“Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter – tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther” → **Symbolism**

“Her face was sad and lovely with bright things in it, bright eyes and a bright passionate mouth,” → **Symbolism**



# The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

## Characters

- **Huck Finn** - narrator, 13 year old boy, father is a drunk, Widow Douglas and Miss Watson adopt him, escapes for adventure, curious, open-minded
- **Widow Douglas & Miss Watson** - two sisters that live together and adopted Huck, do good for him and wish him the best
- **Jim** - was a slave for Douglas and Watson before he decided to run away with Huck
- **Tom Sawyer** - Huck's friend, close-minded, looking for adventure
- **Duke and dauphin** - Huck and Jim meet these two men who claim to be a duke and a dauphin but find out they are conmen, have no consideration for others
- **Pap** - Huck's dad who is an alcoholic, abuser and makes fun of Huck for his education

## Plot Summary

Huck Finn is friends with Tom and lives in St. Petersburg, Mississippi. After finding a lot of gold, Huck's dad comes back to claim his son's money. Huck had been living with two women and was getting tired of going to school, church, and being formal all the time. Nonetheless, when Judge Thatcher didn't give Huck to Pap, Pap kidnapped him and brought him to a cabin in the woods. Pap went out in the day to drink and would lock Huck in the house, when he came back, he would abuse Huck. Eventually, Huck found it necessary to fake his death and go across the river.

Huck found Jim there running away from the Widow who was going to sell him. Everyone was looking for Huck, but after a big storm, they got on a raft and floated away from the island. Huck is debating whether he should be helping a runaway slave, but he gets over it as they find a dead body that Jim won't let Huck look at. Huck finds a woman who helps him, but with a money reward for Jim and her suspicions rising, he is forced to leave. Huck and Jim encounter robbers, but end up leaving safely with their loot.

Huck and Jim miss the entrance to the Ohio River and instead run into men looking for slaves. Huck lies and says his dad has smallpox to get past the security. They get hit by a steamboat and separated. The Grangerfords, Southern aristocrats, take Huck. There is a deadly fight that happens between them and the Shepherdsons when son and daughter from each family elope. Jim finds Huck just in time for them to leave. Then, they run into a supposed duke and dauphin group who want to pretend to be the Wilk brothers and accept their inheritance that the real brothers haven't received yet. Their "nieces" believe them, but Huck grows close to them and feels bad lying. He hides the money in the coffin, tells one of the sisters, and tries to leave with Jim. As the two actual brothers come into town, the duke and dauphin can make it to the raft before Jim and Huck.

The duke and dauphin sell Jim to a family, which turns out to be Tom's aunt and uncle, the Phelps. Huck pretends to be Tom to get Jim back and gets Tom to be his younger brother Sid. Tom comes up with an overly extravagant plan to save Jim, and in the process gets shot in the leg. Jim saves Tom even though it means he is risking his freedom. It turns out Miss Wilson had died and put in her will for Jim to be freed. Tom knew this and considered the plan a game. Aunt Polly of Tom came and told the Phelps who Huck really was. Jim tells Huck that the dead body from earlier was his dad, and even though Aunt Polly offers to adopt him, he decides his next move is to go out West.

#### **Useful Quotes (all are directly from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*)**

"Hain't we got all the fools in town on our side? And hain't that a big enough majority in any town?" → **Anaphora, Repetition**

"Sometimes you gwyne to git hurt, en sometimes you gwyne to git sick; but every time you's gwyne to git well agin." → **Anaphora, Repetition**

"He was sunshine most always—I mean he made it seem like good weather." → **Symbolism** (Grangerford)

"There warn't no colour in his face, where his face showed; it was white; not like another man's white, but a white to make a body's flesh crawl — a tree-toad white, a fish-belly white." → **Metaphor**

“lovely crockery basket…had apples and oranges and peaches and..” →

Polysyndeton

## A Raisin in the Sun

### Characters

- **Walter Lee Younger** - boy with big investment and business dreams, son of a poor family, wants to open a Liquor store, married to Ruth, son Walter, Ruth lives with his family
- **Lena Younger (Mama)** - the mom of Walter and Beneatha wants to use the money to buy a house in a nice neighborhood, wants best for her children, religious
- **Bennie Younger** - 20 yrs old, wants to be a doctor, educated and in college, a go-getter, has big potential
- **Ruth Younger** - Walter's wife, mother to Travis, get pregnant again
- **Willy Harris** - Walter's deceitful friend who ends up stealing his money and running away

### Plot Summary

In the 1950s, the Younger family lived in a small apartment on the South Side of Chicago. Walter and his friend Willy had always talked about investing money into liquor stores. When Mr. Younger dies, his wife and kids receive insurance worth \$10,000. With this money, Mama wants to buy a nice house in a white neighborhood and give the rest of the money to her kids. Walter wants to buy a liquor store because he believes this will solve their money problems for the long term. Bennie wants to use the money to help cover her medical school fees and doesn't want to get involved in the world of white people. Ruth agrees with Mama, as she would love more room for her and Travis in the house.

When Mama finds out that Ruth is pregnant and considering an abortion because she doesn't want to be even more of a burden to her family, Mama spends \$3,500 on a house so that they can have enough room for everyone. The neighborhood that they choose is called Clybourne Park, and the neighbors do not like the idea of a black family living in their town. In response, they send Mr. Lindner to offer the family money in return for leaving the neighborhood. The Younger

family declines. Meanwhile, Willy Harris convinces Walter to invest the money in the liquor store and then runs away with the cash, leaving Walter with nothing.

Beneatha is dealing with her own problems, as a wealthy, African-American man wants to be in a relationship with her. She can't comply as she believes he is giving too away too much of his African culture to be more like white people. Joseph gives her a marriage proposal, and his wishes are for her to get her medical degree and to move back to Africa. She does not decide before the book ends. Although Walter is working towards getting that money back for his family, the Youngers choose to stick together and take on life hand-in-hand.

**Useful Quotes (all directly from *A Raisin in the Sun*)**

**"Good night Prometheus!" → Allusion**

**"New Neighbor Orientation Committee" → Irony** (trying to kick Youngers out)

**"All tied up in a race of people that don't know how to do nothing but moan, pray and have babies" → Irony**

**"Got to admit they got spirit...like this old plant that ain't ever had enough sunshine or nothing" → Symbolism**

**"What kind of fool do you think I am?" → Rhetorical Question**