

Senior Paper Book List

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson (Sierra Linda Library or purchase) **Social issue or Thematic Paper*

Robert Louis Stevenson's masterpiece of the duality of good and evil in man's nature sprang from the darkest recesses of his own unconscious—during a nightmare from which his wife awakened him, alerted by his screams. More than a hundred years later, this tale of the mild-mannered Dr. Jekyll and the drug that unleashes his evil, inner persona—the loathsome, twisted Mr. Hyde—has lost none of its ability to shock. Its realistic police-style narrative chillingly relates Jekyll's desperation as Hyde gains control of his soul—and gives voice to our own fears of the violence and evil within us. Written before Freud's naming of the ego and the id, Stevenson's enduring classic demonstrates a remarkable understanding of the personality's inner conflicts—and remains the irresistibly terrifying stuff of our worst nightmares.

Picture of Dorian Grey – Oscar Wilde (Sierra Linda Library or purchase) **Thematic Paper*

The Picture of Dorian Gray is a familiar story of greed, sin, and arrogance. A young man, infatuated with his own handsomeness and youth as depicted in a perfect portrait, makes a bargain he will come to regret. No one can save him from his appetite for pleasure and his awful fate—not the man who idolizes him, not the woman who loves him, and not even himself! A cautionary tale of innocence sacrificed for the sake of vice, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a classic whose lessons are still relevant today.

Brave New World- Aldous Huxley (Sierra Linda Library or purchase) **Social Issue Paper or Thematic Paper*

Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational sex and drugs, all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harboring an ill-defined longing to break free. A visit to one of the few remaining Savage Reservations, where the old, imperfect life still continues, may be the cure for his distress...Huxley's ingenious fantasy of the future sheds a blazing light on the present and is considered to be his most enduring masterpiece.

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini (Sierra Linda Library) **Thematic or Social Issue Paper*

Hosseini has created characters that seem so real that one almost forgets that *The Kite Runner* is a novel and not a memoir. At a time when Afghanistan has been thrust into the forefront of America's collective consciousness ("people sipping lattes at Starbucks were talking about the battle for Kunduz"), Hosseini offers an honest, sometimes tragic, sometimes funny, but always heartfelt view of a fascinating land. Perhaps the only true flaw in this extraordinary novel is that it ends all too soon.

The Power of One – Bryce Courtenay PART 1 ONLY (Public Library or purchase) **Social Issue Paper*

The Power of One is a coming of age story revolving around a young British boy named Peekay. When the boy's mother suffers from a nervous breakdown he is sent off to a boarding school. This school is full of Boers, Afrikaaners who hate the British for trying to control the government. This is where Peekay first experiences extreme hatred for being different. He is tortured and demeaned by an older boy who he calls "The Judge".

Pride and Prejudice- Jane Austen (Sierra Linda or purchase) **Thematic or Social Issue*

Pride and Prejudice is set primarily in the county of Hertfordshire, about 50 miles outside of London. The story centers on the the Bennet family, particularly Elizabeth. The novel opens at Longbourn, the Bennet family's estate. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet have five children: Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Kitty, and Lydia. The family engages in a conversation about Mr. Bingley, "a single man of large fortune" who will be renting the nearby estate of Netherfield Park. Mrs. Bennet sees Mr. Bingley as a potential suitor for one of her daughters.

Task: Students will choose a book from the approved Senior Research Paper book List. Students will then choose to complete the thematic or social issue approach.

Thematic Paper	Social Issue Paper
<p>Overall Prompt: Create an argument that shows how the use of literary elements develop the novel’s primary theme, shows the author’s life, and how the novel is reflected during the author’s time period.</p>	
<p>Introduction: (1- 1.5 Pages) Hook (anecdote, real life connection, etc.) Segue into paper with introduction of author and basic premise of novel Thesis statement (addresses literary analysis, authors life, historical context)</p>	
<p>Literary Analysis (2-3 pages) – Paper #1 Choose at least 2 literary elements from provided list. Explain, how do these elements help the reader understand the overarching message (theme) of the work?</p>	
<p>Author’s Life (2-3 pages) 2-3 sources – Paper #2 How does the author’s life inform events, characters and the message (theme) in the narrative?</p>	
<p>Historical Context (2-3 pages) 2-3 sources- Paper #3 How are the major issues or theme in the novel reflected during the novels time and in the novels message?</p>	
<p>Conclusion: (1-2 pages) Why are the author and their novel significant? Why does this book have literary merit? How does the author’s message apply to the world today? A specific event? What is the broader application of the author’s purpose/ message in the novel?</p>	