

Task	10th GRADE WORLD LITERATURE	Name: _____	Task
<u>Summer</u>	Summer Assignments	Date: <u>Summer, 2008</u>	<u>Summer</u>
	<i>Due first day of school (test grade)</i>	Teacher: _____	

Assignment One: Tracking Culture in *No Longer At Ease* by Chinua Achebe

You will perform better on this assignment if you do it while you are reading *No Longer at Ease* instead of waiting until you get to the end of the book to start it.

A society's **culture** is composed of many things, including, but not limited to: language, religion, gender roles, race, and education. Throughout *No Longer at Ease*, Achebe writes about Nigerian culture. The novel takes place in Nigeria in the 1950's (Nigeria was officially colonized by the British in 1914 and gained its independence in 1960). The purpose of this assignment is for you to track **one** aspect of culture in order to write an essay exploring how Achebe's novel presents Nigerian culture. We will begin working on this essay when you return to BPCPS in the fall.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. From the list below, select **one** aspect of culture that you would like to track:

- **Language:** Do characters speak Ibo, English, or both? Do characters use proverbs/sayings to express ideas? What is the role of literature (poetry, storytelling)?
- **Gender:** What are the roles of men? What are the roles of women? How do men and women interact with one another?
- **Religion and Ritual:** What religion is practiced? How is it practiced? Do people practice Ibo rituals, Western rituals, or both?
- **Race/Ethnicity:** How are different races and/or ethnicities represented? What values/opinions do characters hold regarding interracial interactions and relationships?
- **Education:** How do different characters feel about education? Where are people educated? Who is considered educated?

2. Look for your aspect of culture in passages throughout the novel. As you find a passage, ask yourself the questions listed above with your aspect of culture. Also ask yourself these questions:

- Which culture(s) is being presented: Nigerian, Western, or both?
- How is this aspect of culture being presented?
- Why would Achebe present this aspect of culture in this way? Why is it significant?

3. **You must track at least 10 passages.** *No Longer at Ease* has 19 Chapters. You must track passages throughout the novel.

Record your thoughts and notes in the chart provided. Here is my example from Chapter One:

Aspect of Culture: Gender **

Page #	Description: Where and how does this aspect appear? Describe/summarize very specifically.	Which culture is being presented?	How is it presented?	Why is this passage significant? Why would Achebe present this aspect of culture in this way?
p.12	-appears during retelling of when Obi left Umuofia; -the pastor is speaking to the crowd about leaving to go to England to study.	Both: Nigerian Men and English (white) women	Intermarriage is presented negatively. The crowd expresses their disapproval.	This passage shows that while Nigerian culture has adopted some aspects of Western culture (i.e. Christian religion; western education), many (but not all) Nigerian people do not believe it is appropriate to for Nigerian men to marry white women.

****Note: This passage could also be used in a chart on race and/or religion. It is okay if your aspect of culture overlaps with other aspects of culture.**

Aspect of Culture: _____

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If you don't write what page you found your evidence on, you won't get credit for this assignment.

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Assignment Two: Tracking Vocabulary in *No Longer at Ease* by Chinua Achebe

As you are reading *No Longer at Ease*, you will be coming across words that you don't yet know. You will be keeping track of them here and trying to figure out their definitions from the way they are used in context. Your list must have at least **twenty (20) words**. Four words will be from Chapters 1-4; four words will be from Chapters 5-8; four words will be from Chapters 9-12; four words will be from Chapters 13-16; and four words will be from Chapters 17-19.

Word	Context Definition	Page #
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

If you don't write what page you found your evidence on, you won't get credit for this assignment.

Word	Context Definition	Page #
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

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Assignment Three: Independent Reading Books

For this assignment, you will be collecting information about the book you chose to read (*In the Time of the Butterflies*, *The Farming of Bones*, *The Kite Runner*, or *The Samurai's Garden*). These books, among others, will be independent reading selections for 10th grade World Literature. The purpose of this assignment is for you to collect information about your book in order to encourage your classmates to read your book for independent reading. You will present your book to your classmates within the first two weeks of your sophomore year. Your presentation will be based on your responses to the following questions.

Instructions: In complete sentences, respond to the following questions **on a separate piece of paper**. Remember that the audience for your responses is other 10th graders at BPCPS: convince them to read your book!

****DON'T** wait until you've finished your book to begin working on this assignment. Think about these questions as you read and take notes in whatever format works for you (sticky notes, underlining, making a chart, etc.).**

1. Describe each main character in your book. Write at least 3-4 sentences for each character.
2. In at least 2-3 paragraphs sell your book to your peers, giving them enough information to know what the book will be about (i.e. plot summary—don't give away the end!, themes, setting, etc.) but not so much information that you give it away.
3. What makes this book interesting and engaging to read? (at least 1-2 paragraphs)
4. What makes this book challenging to read (i.e. vocabulary, background knowledge, narrative style, etc.)? (at least 1-2 paragraphs)
5. To whom would you recommend this book? Why? Would you recommend it to some people, but not to others? Why? (at least 1-2 paragraphs)
6. Pick one passage that you think is representative of the book as a whole. Write 1-2 paragraphs explaining why this passage gets at the heart of what your book is about. Use direct quotes from the passage you choose to support your response.