



Hello future Boston Prep 11th grader! We are very excited to meet you and learn with you next school year. As you enter 11th Grade English, you will continue developing your ability to analyze complex texts, trace themes across a work, and support your ideas with strong textual evidence. In *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi tells the story of multiple generations of one family, exploring how history, identity, family, and power shape people's lives over time.

This summer assignment has two parts. In Part I, you will collect and analyze evidence connected to the novel's major themes. In Part II, you will use that evidence to write an analytical essay responding to one of the provided prompts. Together, these assignments will help prepare you for the reading, writing, and critical thinking expected in 11th Grade English.

Please note that this is a graded TEP assignment that will be due at the end of the first week of school.

Additionally: The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, or similar platforms) to generate, summarize, or complete any portion of your reading responses is not permitted. Your thinking, your words, and your voice matter — and that is exactly what this assignment is designed to develop.

Part I: Theme Evidence Tracker

As you read *Homegoing*, you will collect evidence that helps develop the novel's major themes. The purpose of this assignment is to help you engage actively with the text while gathering evidence that you will later use in your analytical essay.

For each quotation, record:

- The quotation and correct MLA citation (Gyasi #)
- The context of the quotation (What is happening in the story at this point?)
- An analysis of the quotation's significance, including its impact on characterization, tone, mood, conflict, or the reader's understanding of the text
- The theme or themes the quotation helps develop

Your responses should be written in complete sentences and demonstrate thoughtful analysis rather than simple summary. Strong entries will explain not only what the quotation means, but also why it matters to the novel as a whole. Complete the tracker as you read. The evidence and analysis you collect in Part I will serve as the foundation for your analytical essay in Part II.

Find quotes that help to support the following themes:

- Theme 1: The Legacy of Slavery
- Theme 2: Identity and Belonging
- Theme 3: Family and Generational Trauma
- Theme 4: Memory and History
- Theme 5: Power and Oppression

*TIP: When you add your quotes, **make sure to cite correctly and take notes now.**

Quote and MLA Citation (Gyasi #)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Context: What is happening at this point in the story? ● Analysis: What impact does this quote have on the story? (mood, reader’s experience, characterization, tone, etc.) What possible themes does this relate to?
<p>“This is the problem of history. We cannot know that which we were not there to see and hear and experience for ourselves. We must rely upon the words of others ... We believe the one who has the power. He is the one who gets to write the story” (Gyasi 226).</p>	<p>This quote supports the theme that history is shaped by those who have the power to record and tell it. Throughout Homegoing, Gyasi shows how the stories of enslaved Africans and their descendants were often erased or ignored. Yaw teaches that understanding history requires looking beyond official narratives and seeking out voices that have been suppressed. This idea connects directly to the novel's purpose of telling the stories of generations affected by slavery and colonialism.</p>

*TIP: To add more rows to a table, right-click on the bottom row of the table and click "Insert row below"

Part II: Essay Response: Now that you have read and completed your notecatcher choose one of the essay prompts below and write a 5 paragraph essay. Remember plagiarism and the use of A.I will result in a zero for this TEP.

1. **How does Gyasi explore the lasting effects of slavery across multiple generations?**

Analyze how historical trauma shapes the identities, opportunities, and relationships of descendants on both sides of the family tree.

2. **In what ways does the novel examine the meaning of home and belonging?**

Discuss how different characters experience displacement, migration, and cultural connection, and evaluate whether any of them truly find a sense of home.

3. **How do individual choices interact with larger historical forces in the novel?**

Consider whether the characters are able to shape their own destinies or whether their lives are primarily determined by social, political, and economic systems.

Essay Requirements:

- A strong introduction that provides context about the book and introduces the theme.
- A clear claim (Thesis Statement) that answers the prompt
- 2-3 body paragraphs that use evidence from at least three different moments in the text.
- Analysis that explains how each piece of evidence supports your claim and connects to the theme.
- A strong conclusion that restates your claim, answers the prompt, and reflects on the larger message or theme.
- Proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and paragraph structure.

Length: 3-5 paragraphs, approximately 500-750 words

Reminder: This will be graded as a TEP and ANY use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, or similar platforms) to generate, summarize, or complete any portion of your reading responses is not permitted. Your thinking, your words, and your voice matter — and that is exactly what this assignment is designed to develop