

Independent Novel Assignment

Read your selected novel and, as you read, pick out at least **ten** key passages in the work and comment on their individual significance to the novel. Use the provided reading journal to record your passages. On the right side, provide specific commentary explaining exactly how that passage relates to the larger theme you have selected. Be thorough. At the top of the page, indicate in a word or short phrase the theme. (Sample shown below)

After you have finished the novel and collected and commented on a substantial number of passages, write a sentence out that sums up a theme that ties these passages together more fully in the section titled "Generalization about Theme." Be sure to express it as a complete thought but do not express this theme as a cliché or any other familiar saying.

To help get you started, consider these larger ideas such as fate and free will, art and culture, identity, passivity, dreams/hopes/plans, love, warfare, the importance of storytelling, freedom and confinement, courage, coming of age, competing moral codes, violence, memory and the past, isolation, or conformity.

Finally, I want you to come up with the **two** most important questions we should discuss as a class regarding this novel. List the questions, along with an explanation of why each question is significant. Then, in a **typed page or two**, answer one of your questions.

Novel Selections:

A Farewell to Arms

A Lesson Before Dying

All the Pretty Horses

The Awakening

Ceremony

Cold Mountain

Fahrenheit 451

Going After Cacciato

The Grapes of Wrath

In the Time of Butterflies

The Joy Luck Club

The Road

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Name _____ Reading Journal for _____

Theme:	
Passages (Textual Evidence)	Commentary (Why is this significant? Plot? Character? Setting? Theme?)

Generalization about theme:

Important Question for Discussion:

Important Question for Discussion: