**PART ONE:**

**Non Fiction/ Fiction Title Selections:** each student must choose **one** book to read from this list. Pick a culture that is personally new or unknown to widen your global perspective.

* *The House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende (Argentina)
* *Kaffir Boy* by Mark Mathabane (South Africa)
* *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by [William Kamkwamba](http://www.amazon.com/William-Kamkwamba/e/B002BRKQEK/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1402252167&sr=1-1) and [Bryan Mealer](http://www.amazon.com/Bryan-Mealer/e/B001JP4RZY/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1402252167&sr=1-1) (Africa)
* *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (Africa)
* *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See (China)
* *Behind the Beautiful Forever* by Katherine Boo (India)
* *Ghandi-An Autobiography-The Story of My Experiments with* *Truth* by [Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Mohandas+Karamchand+%28Mahatma%29+Gandhi&search-alias=books&text=Mohandas+Karamchand+%28Mahatma%29+Gandhi&sort=relevancerank) (India)
* *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy (Russia)
* *The Late homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kao Kalia Yangby (Hmong)
* *Hiroshima* by John Hersey (Japan)
* *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by [Khaled Hosseini](http://www.amazon.com/Khaled-Hosseini/e/B001HCX9N0/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1402252748&sr=1-1) (Afghanistan)
* *And the Mountains Echoed* byKhaled Hosseini (Afghanistan)

There is a more comprehensive list of cultures/ethnicities on the teacher’s weebly.

**PART TWO:**

**Expository Essay**

Theme is a key literary element students review, develop, analyze, and evaluate throughout the 10th grade English curriculum. Each student will be expected to discuss the thematic **significance of the culture represented** in his/ her novel choice. **Tell me what you learned about the culture from the novel and support it with text evidence.**

**What is culture?** According Meriam-Wesbter’s Online Dictionary, culture can simply be defined as

“ the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time; a particular society that has its own beliefs, ways of life, art, etc; or a way of thinking, behaving, or working that exists in a place or organization (such as a business)” (m-w.com).

A complete definition also provided by the online dictionary is as follows:

“**a** **:**  the [integrated](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/integrate) pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations

**b** **:**  the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group; *also* **:**  the characteristic features of everyday existence (as diversions or a way of life) shared by people in a place or time <popular *culture*><southern *culture*>

**c** **:**  the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization <a corporate *culture* focused on the bottom line>

**d** **:**  the set of values, [conventions](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/convention), or social practices associated with a particular field, activity, or societal characteristic <studying the effect of computers on print *culture*> <changing the *culture* of materialism will take time — Peggy O'Mara>” (m-w.com).

Another explanation for culture is provided by the *Concise Encyclopedia*, which can be found online through the Merriam-Webster site as well:

“Integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behaviour that is both a result of and integral to the human capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations. Culture thus consists of language, ideas, beliefs, customs, taboos, codes, institutions, tools, techniques, works of art, rituals, ceremonies, and symbols. It has played a crucial role in [human evolution](http://www.merriam-webster.com/concise/human%20evolution), allowing human beings to adapt the environment to their own purposes rather than depend solely on [natural selection](http://www.merriam-webster.com/concise/natural%20selection) to achieve adaptive success. Every human society has its own particular culture, or sociocultural system. Variation among cultures is attributable to such factors as differing physical habitats and resources; the range of possibilities inherent in areas such as language, ritual, and social organization; and historical phenomena such as the development of links with other cultures. An individual's attitudes, values, ideals, and beliefs are greatly influenced by the culture (or cultures) in which he or she lives. Culture change takes place as a result of ecological, socioeconomic, political, religious, or other fundamental factors affecting a society” (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2014).

Culture is a multi-faceted concept. Before writing the essay, spend some time brainstorming, reflecting, and researching the questions below.Investigation and reflection will help you **pinpoint three specific elements of the novel representation of cultural theme** you, as a writer, can analyze and evaluate through a culturally-thematic literary analysis essay.

**Suggested Brainstorming (optional):** begin the writing process (brainstorming, gathering data, & prewriting) with answers to the following questions:

* 1. What country is the novel set in? (setting) What time period/ era (s) in history is represented throughout the novel?
  2. Where does the main character spend his/her time? (environmental influences) Who does the character interact with the most?
  3. What are some of the cultural customs, traditions, religions, ceremonies, etc…the author chose to exhibit throughout the novel? (purpose)
  4. What are some important aspects of that culture? (theme)
  5. How does the author reflect this culture, ethnicity, or society throughout the novel? (writer’s craft)
  6. How has the author used the culture to impact the characters in the novel? (characterization)
  7. How has the author used the culture to emphasize specific themes in the novel?
  8. What is your overall impression about the culture represented in the novel? (audience)

Use the information from the above questions to develop content for an effective **five-paragraph, or more,** essay. (approx.250-500 words) This assignment falls under the expository- analysis writing mode.

**Essay Writing Tips:**

* Begin with an introduction (attention grabber, background information, and a thesis statement),
* Flow into a three-paragraph body (each paragraph should discuss a different main idea)
* Conclude (restate your thesis statement, summarize your main ideas, and develop a clincher statement or recommendation).
* In class the fundamental paragraph will emphasize the following mnemonic device: T.R.E.D. [topic/claim, reason/ warrant, evidence/example, and discussion/connection]. This is also called a “sandwich quote”.
* Please follow MLA format rules for your final copy.

Attached are some resources a writer may find helpful for MLA Formatting, correct citation of sources both In-Text, and for help with a Works Cited Page. See the attached requirement page.

***Although not a requirement****, you might wish to check out the following websites.* They list suggested readings for high school students and college-bound students as well as common vocabulary words and guidance for proper MLA formatting. If there are books that you have not yet read, you might want to add a few to a personal summer reading list.

* <http://www.vocabulary.com/classic.html>
* <http://als.lib.wi.us/Collegebound.html>
* http://owl.english.purdue.edu -- go to database for MLA/ APA format information
* <http://www.quizlet.com> --check out content vocabulary lists under “jhuyghe”
* <http://www.khanacademy.org> --ACT/ SAT prep
* <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org> – AP/SAT