

General Instructions

1. You are required to read John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
2. Annotate your novel as you read. (Underline characters, parts of the novels that are of interest to you, parts that are integral to the plot, and parts that suggest a theme.)
3. You will take a test during the first week of class, so if you annotate your novel, studying for the test and completing the packet will be much easier.
4. The packet is due the **first day of class** and will be your first **major grade**.
5. You will use your packet when you write your first essay for the class.

Instructions for the packet

- ✓ Choose **four** of the themes listed for each novel and **create one of your own**. For *East of Eden* **YOU MUST use the last on the list, "Thou mayest."** After you read the novel, think about how that concept relates to the human spirit (eventually, the "American" spirit).
 - That is 10 all together.
- ✓ Record four **quotations** for each theme. Keep in mind that they should be good examples of that theme.
- ✓ Your explanations should provide context for the quotes and must be original!
 - Your **explanations** should also contain analysis that shows us what you are thinking. (This is where you show off your analytical thinking skills!)
- ✓ Don't forget to include the **page number**. You don't want to have to flip through the novels over and over.
- ✓ Keep in mind that we have computers too. *Sparknotes* isn't good enough; use your brain.

East of Eden

- Culture / Discrimination
- Immigration / Traditions
- Education / Learning
- Good / Evil
- Love / Hate
- Escape / Entrapment
- Brotherhood / Alienation
- "Thou mayest"

To Kill a Mockingbird

- Racism
- Heroism / Bravery
- Loss of innocence (Don't get carried away; you did enough of this in 9th grade.)
- Moral education
- Classism
- Looking at situations from another's perspective
- The "mockingbird" theme

Please keep in mind that the purpose of these notes is to give you the chance to keep track of some of your more thoughtful reactions to the readings; they are *not* intended to make the readings doubly burdensome. If you find yourself spending more time taking notes than reading the books, **you're writing too much!** Give us both a break and keep your notes concise.

THEME:

Quotation	Explanation/Context	Page #