

Literature: The Individual and Society
10th Grade Reading, Summer 2010

This summer your required reading is Bryce Courtenay's *The Power of One*. The book is full of strong characters, humor, action, historical connection, and a very subtle hint of mysticism. You will be discussing this book with your mentor group and in English class. We hope that you will read the assignment before school starts. The accompanying written assignment is due on **Wednesday, September 1**.

Historical Context

The book is set in South Africa starting in 1939, just as World War II was beginning in Europe. Our main character and narrator, eventually known as Peekay, is a young, white boy with British parents. At the beginning of the book, he attends a boarding school with children who are Afrikaners or Boers, white descendants of Dutch settlers who speak the language Afrikaans. Strong tensions between British South Africans and Boers are left over from the Anglo-Boer war (1899-1902) in which the Boers got aid from Germany and the British ultimately succeed, putting 26,000 Boers and 14,000 black Africans into concentration camps. During the lead-up to World War II, some Boers support Germany in secret while South Africa as a whole fights alongside the British. Racism against the many different black African populations is shown throughout the book, but the prejudice becomes increasingly vigorous when the 1948 elections put D.F. Malan, one of the first supporters of apartheid, into power.*

Before You Read—Context

Write down everything you know about these words that will fit in this box.

South Africa

Apartheid

Boxing

***For more historical background check out:**

"The Power of One: Context." *SparkNotes*. 4 June 2010. <<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/power/context.html>>

"Military History of South Africa in World War II" *Wikipedia*. 4 June 2010. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_South_Africa_during_World_War_II>.

Remember that *Spark Notes* is a support NOT a replacement for reading the book!

The Assignment

Part I: Letter to Peekay

Write a letter to Peekay where you tell him your opinion of his decision-making skills. You will focus your letter on three key moments that you choose. Do you believe that he makes strong decisions that show that he has Everest's core characteristics (compassion, curiosity, courage, integrity, respect, responsibility)? Do you believe he makes decisions that harm him or those around him? Do you see his decisions as somewhere in the middle? Your conclusion should give him advice about how he should make decisions in the future.

Your letter must have an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Each of the three body paragraphs must include:

- A description and explanation of a key moment where Peekay must make a decision
- Two quotations from the book (cited! with page numbers!) that use imagery, dialogue, or action to show this decision
- At least two core characteristics that he shows or doesn't show through the decision
- The results and effects of the decision

Part II: Character Comparison

Write two paragraphs that compares your strengths in the core characteristics to one character from *The Power of One*.

Paragraph I

- Which two core characteristics are you strongest in? (Use examples)
- Which two core characteristics is the character strongest in? (Use examples)
- How are your strengths similar/different?

Paragraph II

- Which two core characteristics are most difficult for you? (Use examples)
- Which two core characteristics are most difficult for the character? (Use examples) and for the character?
- How are your areas for growth similar/different?

If you find yourself without anything to read this summer, email Ms. Toal Mandsager (LTMandsager@everestphs.org) or check the links on her website (www.everestphs.org > English > Lilla Toal Mandsager > Website) for book recommendations.

Everest 10th Grade Summer Assignment

Next year, you will be taking these classes: Spanish, English II, World Studies II, Algebra II, Physics.

To prepare you to be academically successful in these classes next year, we want you to do work over the summer that will push your thinking skills. All of the following options build our school's ESLR'S (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results): Application, Connection, Evaluation, Use of Evidence, Hypothesis, Analysis. These skills will be necessary for your success.

Your final product can take multiple forms. You should use as many words, pictures, graphs, etc. as you need to create a creative, thoughtful, and complete product that highlights your thinking and shows off your great work.

If you have an idea for an alternative assignment, please propose it to your mentor via email. Once you choose your assignment, email your mentor to let him/her know what you are doing.

In addition to your REQUIRED summer reading, you must complete at least **ONE** of the following options (continued on the back of this page).

- Read at least 3 different news articles about a current event (such as the Gulf Oil Spill, the European Financial Crisis, the Afghanistan War, etc.). Use what you learned in World Studies I to analyze the events. What is your opinion based on the evidence you found? Prepare an explanation of the event and its details that a 7th grader would understand.
- The World Cup starts June 11! Hypothesize (guess) who will win at each stage and why. After each stage is completed, analyze/compare the results from different games. Find reasons why your hypotheses were right or wrong. What general patterns can you find in why teams are winning? What matters most: time of possession, goals, penalties, or something else?
- If you go see a movie, analyze the main characters and the traits that make that character successful or unsuccessful over the course of the movie. Graph each characters' successes and failures as the movie goes on. Describe how the characters' journeys connect with those other stories you have read giving specific evidence.
- If you are playing a sport, evaluate your team's performance over the summer. What are the qualities of a good team? Which of the core characteristics impacted your team? What skills does it take to be successful in your sport (individual and team)? Which skills did you personally contribute? What are you and your team going to need to work on in the future to be more successful?
- Rent a movie you know very well that has an option for Spanish subtitles. Watch the movie with the subtitles on and learn at least 5 of your favorite lines from the movie in Spanish. Write a new scene that applies this vocabulary.
- Identify the meaning and roots of places around you that come from Spanish? Translate names of streets, cities, and places around the Bay Area (El Camino Real, Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, San Jose, etc.) and research their historical significance.

- Find a home science webpage, such as <http://www.sciencebob.com/experiments/> (or just google "home science experiments") and find an experiment to perform. Use the scientific method (define the question, gather information and resources, form a hypothesis, perform experiment and collect data, analyze/interpret data, draw conclusions) and perform the experiment. Then extend the experiment based on your results.
- Watch a show that performs experiments, such as "Myth Busters" or "Top Gear". After the introduction of the episode and what they are going to do, predict what the results are going to be. How would you design a similar experiments? How could you extend it? How does it connect to real life? What were the hypothesis, controls, variables, evidence, etc?
- Go to San Mateo County History Museum (at 2200 Broadway in RWC) and evaluate the exhibits. What is their goal? How effectively are they meeting it? What are specific suggestions that would improve the museum? How do specific aspects of the history connect to your life today?
- If you are taking a summer trip, document the behaviors, customs and traditions that you observe. What are the similarities and differences between the communities in your hometown and your trip destination?

MATH SPECIFIC PREPARATION

For 10th grade Algebra II, you will need a GRAPHING calculator. Specifically you will need a TI-83 or TI-84 (Texas Instruments). These are available at many stores such as Office Depot, but can be ordered online from sites such as Ebay, Amazon, or Usedcalculators.com. Please do NOT buy any other calculator - we want all of our students to be on the same system.

Over the summer, we recommend that you make sure that you are proficient in the following math skills:

- Integers, Fractions and Decimals
- Order of Operations
- Using Variables
- Solving Linear or Quadratic Equations
- Exponents
- Distributive Property
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Graphing from an Equation or from a Table
- Slope
- Representing a Linear or Quadratic Equation as a Table or as a Graph
- Factoring Quadratics and Using the Quadratic Formula
- Finding Intercepts of Linear or Quadratic Equations

If you are not sure if you are strong enough on these math skills, summaries and practice problems are available on Mr. Moyer's and Mr Brege's web sites (go to www.everestphs.org to find these). You will be expected to be solid in all of these areas when you start Algebra II, so make sure you are prepared!