

Robert Morgan Educational Center

Summer Reading Assignment

T. Malouf - Home of the Pirates – Setting a Course of Literacy

tmalouf@dadeschools.net

DE Writing and Rhetoric AND AP Language and Composition – REQUIRED

– *In Cold Blood* – Truman Capote

All work must be typed, 12-pt font, double spaced

Non-negotiable book (teacher’s choice) – *In Cold Blood*

What you learned:

- In **Dual Enrollment Writing and Rhetoric** and **AP Language and Composition**, you will spend a great deal of time analyzing the manner in which text is written, as well as analyzing the meaning of the text alone. The following are various terms you may or may not be familiar with; all are defined. For *In Cold Blood*, you must analyze the text for each of the following:

Tone – Similar to mood, tone describes the author’s attitude toward his material, the audience, or both. Tone is easier to determine in spoken language than in written language. Considering how a work would sound if it were read aloud can help in identifying an author’s tone. Some words describing tone are playful, serious, businesslike, sarcastic, humorous, formal, ornate, sardonic, somber, etc.

Diction – Related to style, diction refers to the writer’s word choices, especially with regard to their correctness, clearness, or effectiveness. You should be able to describe an author’s diction (for example, formal or informal, ornate or plain) and understand the ways in which diction can complement the author’s purpose. Diction, combined with syntax, figurative language, literary devices, etc., comprises an author’s style.

Syntax – The way an author chooses to join words into phrases, clauses, and sentences. Syntax is similar to diction, but you can differentiate between them by thinking of syntax as groups of words, while diction refers to the individual words.

Style - The consideration of style has two purposes:

(1) An evaluation of the sum of the choices an author makes in blending diction, syntax, figurative language, and other literary devices. Some authors’ styles are so idiosyncratic that we can quickly recognize works by the same author. We can analyze and describe an author’s

personal style and make judgments on how appropriate it is to the author's purpose. Styles can be called flowery, explicit, succinct, rambling, bombastic, commonplace, incisive, laconic, etc.

(2) Classification of authors to a group and comparison of an author to similar authors. By means of such classification and comparison, we can see how an author's style reflects and helps to define a historical period, such as the Renaissance or the Victorian period, or a literary movement, such as the romantic, transcendental, or realist movement.

- After reading *In Cold Blood* and reviewing or learning the terms above answer the following questions (150 – 200 words EACH).
 - What is the tone of the piece in (using words to describe the tone and using specific lines from the book) 2 examples?
 - Describe the diction in the novel using specific lines from the novel (at least 2 examples).
 - Describe the syntax in the novel using specific lines from the novel (at least 2 examples).
 - What is the style (using BOTH purposes of style) of the piece using specific words to support your conclusions?