



HOLY SPIRIT
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Modern Literature

Summer Assignments

Academic Year - 2023-2024

Course Information

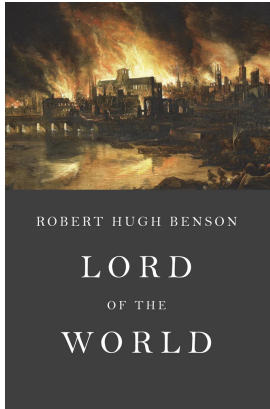
Department: English

Class Description: This course focuses on literature from the Renaissance period to the 20th-century. Students learn universal themes, symbolic patterns, and social values within modern literature, along with its historical context and influence. There are opportunities for writing composition which strengthen students' understanding of narrative, informative, and argumentative writing.

Materials Required: *Lord of the World* by Robert Hugh Benson

Contact ahaskin@holyspiritprep.org for any questions

Summer Assignment



Learning objectives:

- Our goal is for the HSP student to be introduced to a wide breadth of classical and contemporary books both in the classroom and over the summer. In addition, we hope to foster a habit of and love for reading and with that goal in mind, we hope to provide students an opportunity to explore additional literature that they may not be exposed to otherwise.

Estimated time of completion

- 3-5 days

Details of Assignment

As you read *Lord of the World*, annotate the text. Annotations will help you keep track of important events and keep you engaged in reading. See the following page for help annotating.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

“Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh.”

Analyze and describe the events portrayed in the novel *Lord of the World* in light of the above description of the final trial that the Church must pass through. In particular, follow the character of Fr. Percy Franklin through this final trial, and evaluate the trial of the Church through the particular circumstances of Fr. Franklin. Compose an essay detailing how his experience and that of the Church is similar to what the Catechism describes. What religious deception and pseudo-messianism (consider the character of Felsenburgh) occur on his journey? How does Fr. Franklin respond, and how does his response rely heavily on prayer and sacrifice? Based on this evaluation, how does Benson's novel serve as a sort of “revelation” of Christ, even in the fictional imagination of the end times?

Required length- 2-3 pages.

Instructions for Annotating a Text

Annotation is a key component of close reading. Since we will annotate texts all year, you need to develop a system that works for you (within the following guidelines). Effective annotating is both economical and consistent. The techniques are almost limitless, so please feel free to use any combination of the following:

How to Annotate:

- Make brief comments in the margins. Use any white space available - inside cover, random blank pages
- Make brief comments between or within lines of the text. Do not be afraid to mark within the text itself. In fact, you must.
- Circle or put boxes, triangles, or clouds around words or phrases.
- Use abbreviations or symbols - brackets, stars, exclamation points, question marks, numbers, etc.
- Connect words, phrases, ideas, circles, boxes, etc. with lines or arrows.
- Underline or highlight – CAUTION: Use these methods sparingly. Underline only a few words. Always combine with another method such as comment. Never underline an entire passage. Doing so takes too much time and loses effectiveness. If you wish to mark an entire paragraph or passage, draw a line down the margin or use brackets.
- Use post-it notes only if you have exhausted all available space (unlikely).

What to annotate:

- Have a conversation with the text. Talk back to it.
- Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- Comment on something that intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses, aggravates, etc.
- Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Summarize key events. Make predictions.
- Note if you experience an epiphany.
- Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand.
- Note how the author uses language. Note the significance if you can.
 - effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
 - point of view / effect reliability of narrator
 - repetition of words, phrases, actions, events - patterns motifs or cluster ideas
 - narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events tone / mood
 - contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts themes/irony/imagery/ symbols
 - allusions setting / historical period
 - any other figure of speech or literary device

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. It will help you contemplate and comprehend the text even better.