**Historical Novel Review**

Each student must select a historical novel to read this semester from the list provided by Mr. Eriksen or one chosen by the student and approved my Mr. Eriksen. After reading the novel you are required to write an essay which gives a summary of the book and discusses its historical relevance and accuracy. Be sure to use your textbook and other reliable sources in your evaluation. The essays will be graded based on the requirements below.

Length – 4 pages typed, 12 pt. font, double spaced, Times New Roman

Summary – The student should provide a thorough summary of the plot, major characters, and climax

Relevance – The student should provide his/her thoughts and opinions on why their novel could be considered a historical work. Questions to consider: How does it relate to material which is covered or will be covered in this class? Does the novel focus on the historical event or is it merely a story taking place simultaneously?

Accuracy – The student should explain why they felt the book was accurate or inaccurate in depicting real life historical events. Be sure to provide several specific examples. Questions to consider: Do the characters represent people of the time? Do the events in the novel draw a parallel with actual events in world history or are they fabricated for entertainment?

Punctuation, grammar, citations – The student’s essay should be free of punctuation, spelling, and grammatical errors. You must properly cite sources using MLA format. The librarians are able to help you with MLA formatting if you are not familiar with how to use it and there is a link to help you on the bocaciega.org > Library website.

Suggested Titles:

1. All Quiet on the Western Front
2. A Farewell to Arms
3. The Cloud Atlas
4. The Book Thief
5. Salt
6. Farewell to Manzanar
7. When My Name Was Keioko
8. Letters to my German Soldier
9. 1984
10. The Boy in the Stripped Pajamas
11. The Rape of Nanking
12. The Long March
13. Unto the Sons
14. My Brother Sam is Dead
15. Outlander
16. The Girl With the Pearl Earring
17. Memoirs of a Geisha
18. The Kite Runner
19. A Tale of Two Cities
20. People of the Book
21. The Killer Angels
22. The Things They Carried
23. Things Fall Apart
24. The Last Kingdom
25. The Autobiography of Henry VIII: With Notes by His Fool
26. The Other Boleyn Girl
27. The Pillars of the Earth
28. Mutiny on the Bounty
29. Siddhartha
30. The English Patient

Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Points Possible** | **40** | **30** | **20** | **10** | **0** |
| Paper Length |   |   |   |   |   |
| Summary |   |   |   |   |   |
| Relevance and Accuracy |   |   |   |   |   |
| Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling |   |   |   |   |   |
| MLA Works Cited |   |   |   |   |   |

My book title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approved? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_