

Honors American Literature
American Literature Summer Work

Due Date: All work must be printed out and brought to class on the first day of class. The late work policy for this class will apply if any items are turned in after that point.

Hello and welcome to Honors American Lit! The novel you will read this summer, *The Princess Bride*, is one of my favorites, and I think it will be one of yours as well! Also, you've probably seen this movie, but I promise that the book is absolutely worth reading as well. My hope is that this novel draws you in as it did for me in high school. It truly is one of the best!

Required Reading:

1. *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman (ISBN-10 : 9780156035217)
2. Buttercup's Baby and Explanation of Buttercup's Baby (included in *The Princess Bride*)

Pre-Reading Information: What to know before you start reading:

- **Frame Story**- a story that has another story or stories within it
 - o The "mythical" fantasy tale is framed by the more realistic (yet still fictional) tale of the narrator
- **Intrusive Narrator**- an omniscient narrator, who frequently interrupts the plot with comments on the story, characters, or life in general
 - o Note: The narrator is NOT the author. His story is a part of the novel and should not be skipped!
- **Willing Suspension of Disbelief**
 - o Both stories have fantastic or unbelievable elements to them - let it go!
 - o Put aside your critical beliefs in order to accept the unreal world the author creates.
- **Satire-mocking of the "fairy tale hero" (that is, making fun of!)**
 - o Think about what normal heroic elements of a fantasy are being mocked here (we will discuss this further in class!)

What you should notice as you are reading: Be on the lookout for examples of the following four themes: Courage, Endurance, Loyalty, and Teamwork (Don't forget the narrator! He shows all of the above themes as well!)

Directions/Assignment Checklist:

- Complete Task #1 (Finish Novel with Double Entry Journal)
- Complete Task #2 (Archetype Essay)
- If you haven't ever (or in a long time) watch the movie! Even if it isn't the same as the novel, it's worth watching!
- Be prepared for an assessment of your knowledge on the novel in the first week of school.

TASK #1: Finish Novel with Double Entry Journal: Write these in a composition notebook and turn in on the first day of school.

As you read, write double entry journals featuring a quotation and analysis of each section of the novel. You should have **FIVE** entries for each section of the following sections of the book:

- The Princess Bride,
- Chapter 1 The Bride,
- Chapter 2 The Groom,
- Chapter 3 The Courtship,
- Chapter 4 The Preparations,
- Chapter 5 The Announcement,
- Chapter 6 The Festivities
- Chapter 7 The Wedding
- Chapter 8 The Honeymoon
- Buttercup’s Baby an Explanation
- Buttercup’s Baby Chapter 1 Fezzik Dies

Focus on choosing and analyzing quotations that reveal aspects of characters’ personalities and development. You may also mention how literary elements (such as repetition, irony, foreshadowing, motif, tone, etc.) are employed to contribute to the effect of the story, but focus on how elements contribute to our understanding the sense of feelings, beliefs, and purpose. Use a two-column table with a separate row for each chapter. Your analysis should be longer than your quote. Ex:

Section One: The Bride	“Buttercup, of course, at fifteen, knew none of this. And if she had, would have found it totally unfathomable. How could someone care if she were the most beautiful woman in the world or not. What difference could it have made if you were only the third most beautiful. Or the sixth.” (16).	In “The Bride,” Buttercup is already established as an individual who has little to no desire with physical beauty. Though she is young, she is not preoccupied with external standards of beauty, but would rather focus on matters around her. The farm hand and riding her horse are much more exciting to a young girl, who would rather chase excitement than worry about her appearance. This seems to exemplify Buttercup’s youth as she is not affected by the world’s expectations.
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Tip: In your analysis, avoid saying “In this quotation, Buttercup”; rather, follow the example above which follows my ATP method (Author, Text, Purpose) by mentioning the author, identifying short details or words from the text, and suggesting the purpose of his choices in diction, setting, and characterization (What meaning might he be conveying? Why might he be constructing the text in a particular way?)

TASK #2: Archetype Essay: You will print this out and turn it in on our first day of class.

In a well-developed five paragraph essay of no less than 3 full pages, write an essay in which you explore the idea of archetypes and how Goldman chooses to change key details about the characters to make the characters more interesting.

Use the following questions to guide the thesis of the essay. What is the author saying about a particular archetype and what it represents? What archetypes are used? Or even, which are meant to twist your idea of what archetypes should be? How does the author make fun of the ideal archetypes? In each of your body paragraphs, open with a claim related to the thesis, cite evidence to support your claim, and provide analysis about what Goldman is trying to convey. Close by summarizing your argument and providing lasting thoughts on the work and its message. Use MLA formatting, avoid first and second person pronouns, and include citations from the novel.

If you are unfamiliar or need a refresher of archetypes and their examples, you may need to do some research to help you familiarize yourself with the topic before writing your essay. I suggest the following sources:

A. *Masterclass* Article:

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/writing-101-the-12-literary-archetypes>

B. Archetypes and Symbols Quick Reference Guide:

<https://chsenglishap4.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/7/2257880/archetypesandsymbols.pdf>