

Name: _____ Per. _____ Date: _____

Response to Literature Essay: Looking for Alaska



Reading Standard 2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Reading Standard 1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Writing Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Writing Prompts - Choose one of the following:

____ 1. **Alaska's Death:** Was Alaska's death an accident or a suicide? Analyze the text for textual evidence and clues that indicate the answer to this question.

____ 2. **The Teenage Brain:** According to scientists, the teenage brain seeks out new, risky experiences, but also is very vulnerable to drugs, alcohol, and change. How can brain science explain some of the behavior of the teenage characters in *Looking for Alaska*? Cite examples from the novel as well as the science articles we discussed in class.

____ 3. **Themes/Symbolism:** What is the central theme of *Looking for Alaska*? How does the author, John Green, use symbolism to convey this message? Possible themes might include: death and the meaning of life; self-discovery and independence; mischief and guilt; or trust and friendship. Symbols in the text include: cigarettes, the lake, alcohol, white flowers, last words.

Writing Criteria:

- Well-organized multiple-paragraph essay.
- A clear thesis statement (main argument).
- Textual evidence with analysis (quotes must be cited with page numbers in MLA Format).
- Creativity and sentence variety.
- Checked for spelling/grammar/mechanics.

Writing Process:

1. Prewriting/Tree Map/Outline (40 points) Due: _____
2. Essay First Draft (100 points) Due: _____
3. Peer-Editing and Revision (20 points) Due: _____
4. Essay Final Draft (100 points, Typed, MLA Guidelines) Due: _____

- First draft must be completed in class for a grade according to the rubric.
- Students are expected to revise/edit their paper for a final grade.
- Final Draft must be typed in MLA Format (Times New Roman, 12 point, Double Spaced).
- Please share your essay with Mr. Nittle at arnittle@gmail.com.
- Additional essay resources available at: www.mrnittle.com