

Summer Assignment: English III Honors

Book: *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler (1979)

ISBN: 978-0807083697 (Paperback)

Students enrolled in English III Honors must complete all parts of the assignment by the second week of school on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. This must be typed. For questions about the assignment or more information on English III Honors, please contact Dr. Sherwin at michelle-taylor.sherwin@montverde.org

Part I. The Novel

Read the novel *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler, making note of historical setting, language* plot structure, time, character development, and overall thematic purpose.

Part II. A Literary Artifact (200-250 words)

An artifact is an object of particular cultural or historical importance—when authors place artifacts in their literary works, these objects often provide context for a situation that is not similar to our own. In *Kindred*, an example of a literary artifact is a map. For Dana and other characters in the novel, a map is a symbol of hope, flight, and freedom out of enslavement. Consider an everyday “artifact” that you own that may provide context for someone in a different situation from you. What is the artifact’s importance to you? How might it be used as a symbol? What is the story behind how you acquired it?

Part III. Traveling back in time (900-1000 words)

Dana is surprisingly transported back to enslavement at the beginning of the novel. It is through her first person perspective that readers catch a glimpse of an unfamiliar world that is rife with complexity, to say the least. What time or era would you choose to visit if you could? Writing in the form of personal journal entries, imagine and write about your fantastical experience in another time period that is outside of the twenty-first century. Just as Dana shows us the moments of compassion and vulnerability alongside violent and harrowing incidences, be sure to include the positives *and* negatives of your imagined experience.

(*For example, a time I would choose to visit is 1912—specifically, the Titanic’s maiden voyage. While I would write about the fashion styles I would see and the conversations with different groups of people I would have, I would also take into account in my journal entries that the maiden voyage of this ship ends tragically with the Titanic sinking into the Atlantic).