

English II, Honors
Summer Reading Packet

Mishima, Yukio: *The Sailor Who Fell From Grace with the Sea*

ISBN-10: 0679750150

Camus, Albert: *The Stranger*

ISBN-10: 0679720200

The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea

The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea Poster Project

Before you read, complete the following project. Go online and use Google to search the word “samurai.” Read about samurai culture and create a poster that depicts your findings. You may draw pictures, print pictures, include bulleted bits of information, etc. The world is your oyster for the poster project. The primary reason I want you to complete the research and poster project is so that you learn something about the samurai before reading *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea*. **THIS POSTER MUST BE HANDED IN FOR A GRADE ON THE FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL IN AUGUST.**

The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea Questions

Be prepared to take a quiz on the novel and to participate in a graded formal discussion on the first day back to school in August. While you do not have to write answers to the discussion questions, it will help you to jot notes down next to each question so you will find it easier to participate in the discussion.

1. What kind of picture do you have of Noboru’s mother after reading the passage describing her bedroom on page 5? Explain your answer and give examples from the text.
2. What do you make of Noboru spying on his mother?
3. How do the passages pertaining to his spying, especially those with descriptions of his mother’s nude body, make you (as a reader) feel?
4. With what is Noboru obsessed? What does he want to become when he is older? What is the significance of this career/lifestyle choice? Why is it important?

5. The second full paragraph on page 8 is extremely important. It begins with “At thirteen, Noboru was convinced of his own genius...” Why is this passage important? How does it foreshadow events to come?
6. Who is Tsukazaki? Describe him. What sort of character is he?
7. Reread the second full paragraph on page 11. This is a description of Tsukazaki. Look closely at the sorts of words used to describe him. What sort of diction (word choice) does Mishima use to describe this character? Why is the diction important here?
8. How did Fusako (Noboru’s mother) and Noboru meet Tsukazaki? Do you think the story could have played out in a similar fashion had they met under different circumstances? Why or why not?
9. In the second paragraph on page 38, Tsukazaki explains what he had wanted to say to Fusako when she asked why he had never married. Why had he never married? What does he think of himself? Explain his idea of what it means to be a man. Do you agree with him or disagree with him?
10. What is the purpose of Noboru’s gang? What sort of boys were in the gang?
11. Why do you think the Chief of the gang had gone to great lengths to show the boys pornographic pictures? Why do you think the Chief thought sex or interest in girls was unworthy?
12. The Chief claims the boys can “achieve power over existence” through the act of murder. What does this mean? Explain.
13. On page 59, Mishima describes in great detail the insides of the dead kitten. What sorts of words does he use to describe the kitten’s guts? Why is this strange? How does it strike you or make you feel?
14. What exactly did the Chief do to the cat? Why? Explain.
15. In several scenes in the book, Tsukazaki seems unable to express what he really means. This happens at least once with Fusako (early in the novel) and then once again with Noboru (page 67). Why is this inability to express himself an important part of his character?
16. Fusako believes Tsukazaki is a simple man? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
17. How do you think Noboru views his mother? How does he feel about her?
18. On page 81, Noboru creates a list of “charges” against Tsukazaki. What is the purpose of this?

19. On page 122, Yorkio, the famous actress, declares that Tsukazaki's decision to give Fusako all of his money (two-million yen) was a "manly thing to do." What is ironic about this statement?
20. Which character is the protagonist? Explain.
21. Which character is the antagonist? Explain
22. Identify and discuss some of the conflicts found in the novel. Which problem is the central or main conflict? Explain
23. What is the central theme of this novel?
24. Why are the boys in Norobu's gang so disgusted with Tsukazaki?
25. Where is the climax or turning point of the story?
26. When the Chief tells the boys there's one more way to make Tsukazaki a hero again, what does he mean?
27. On page 136, the Chief goes off on a tirade about parents. Is this typical? If so, why? If not, why not?
28. What is ironic about the very last paragraph of the novel?

The Stranger

Answer each of the following questions. You may either handwrite or type your answers. All answers must be on a separate sheet of paper. All work is due the first day back to school in August. All work must be completed for a grade. Be prepared to turn in all written assignments on the first day back to school in August. In addition, be prepared to take a quiz on the reading and to participate in a graded formal discussion on the novel on the first day back to school.

The Stranger Part Questions

Part I

Chapters are indicated by the number that appears in parentheses at the end of each question.

1. Who is the narrator of *The Stranger*? (1)
2. What does Meursault do in the opening chapter? (1)
3. What is Meursault's reaction to his mother's death? (1)
4. Who does Meursault encounter at the beach? (2)
5. How do Meursault and Marie spend the Saturday after the funeral? (2)
6. What kind of a movie do they go see?(2)
7. Identify Emmanuel, Celeste, Raymond and Salamano. (3)
8. What does Meursault think of Salamano's relationship with his dog? (3)
9. What insights do we gain into Meursault's character judging from his interactions with Salamano and Raymond? (3)
10. What does Raymond want Meursault to do for him? (3)
11. Why do the police come to Raymond's room? (4)

12. What happens to Salamano's dog? How does Salamano react?(4)
13. Meursault tells his boss that "people never change their lives, that in any case one life is as good as another." What do we learn about Meursault from this statement? (5)
14. How does Meursault respond when Marie asks if he loves her? (5)
15. Who is Masson, and why does Meursault go to his beach house? (6)
16. How does Raymond get hurt? (6)
17. Why does Meursault return to the beach and to the rock by the water? (6)
18. What does Meursault do when he encounters the Arab at the rock? Why? (6)

Part II

Chapters are indicated by the number that appears in parentheses at the end of each question.

1. What about Meursault upsets and frustrates his lawyer and the magistrate? (1)
2. What does the magistrate use to try to break through to Meursault's feelings of remorse or sadness? (1)
3. Why is Marie only allowed to visit Meursault one time? Does Meursault seem to care whether or not she comes back to visit? (2)
4. How does Meursault pass his time in prison? (2)
5. At Meursault's trial, why is so much made of his conduct at his mother's funeral? (3)
6. What does Celeste say concerning the murder? (3)
7. What is Marie's testimony and how does it hurt Meursault's case? (3)
8. What defense did Meursault's lawyer present? (4)
9. What was the jury's verdict? (4)
10. What does Meursault tell the chaplain? (5)
11. What does Meursault try to explain to the chaplain after he becomes angry? (5)

The Stranger Discussion Questions

Read each of the questions and be prepared to answer them during a formal discussion on the first day of school in August. While you do not have to write answers for the discussion questions, it is a good idea for you to make notes next to the questions so it will be easier for you to participate in discussion.

1. What point of view does Camus use for *The Stranger*? How does this contribute to our understanding of the themes in the story?
2. Write a list of the main events in *The Stranger*.
3. Is the story of *The Stranger* believable? Why or why not?
4. Where is the climax of the story?
5. Are the characters in *The Stranger* stereotypes? If so, why are stereotypes used? If not, explain how they merit individuality?
6. What are the main conflicts in the story, and how are they resolved?
7. Why was the novel divided into two parts? What are the characteristics of each part?
8. Is Meursault's death in the book inevitable? Of course everyone dies, but why didn't Camus write the story with a happy ending--with Marie and Meursault living happily ever after?
9. Are Meursault's actions believably motivated? Explain why or why not.
10. What is the role of Marie in the story? Why was she included?
11. Characterize Albert Camus' style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the novel?
12. Compare and contrast Meursault and Raymond.
13. Who was responsible for the death of the Arab? Explain your choice.
14. What function does the character of the woman at the restaurant serve in the novel?

15. What characteristics of existentialism are present in the novel, and how is each shown?
16. Compare and contrast the magistrate and the chaplain (priest).
17. People seem to go to Meursault for advice or to ask his opinions. Why?
18. Is Meursault as uncaring as he seems to be?
19. Why did Meursault not jump at the chance to go to Paris?
20. How was Meursault different from his usual self on the day of the murder?
21. Why did Meursault want a crowd of people at his execution?
22. Explain the significance of the title *The Stranger*.
23. If this story were told in the first person narrative by Marie, how would the story and its effect have changed?
24. *The Stranger* is a short novel. Could anything have been gained by including more scenes from the time before or after the events of the story? If so, what could have been added and for what purpose. If not, explain why not.
25. Did you enjoy reading *The Stranger*? Why or why not?
26. Would you have been Meursault's friend? Why or why not?

The Stranger Essay Question

In a multi-paragraph essay explain who is responsible for Mersault's situation. Your essay should be well-organized and you should use examples from the text to support your opinion. (*This essay must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font. It must also be double-spaced.*)