



Mr. Piper's Summer Reading for ALL SENIORS

The Master & Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition; ISBN-13: 978-0143108276. \$11.55 on Amazon)

Since this novel has been translated from Russian into English a few different times, it is important that we all read from the same translation, so please find this edition to purchase or check out from the library. Thanks!

There are three assignments accompanying the reading:

- (1) **Twenty-question Quiz.** The quiz will be taken in class during the first several days of school. Questions will address characters and events in the story. All questions will be objective and will include a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and matching.
- (2) **Five Memes.** Create five different memes inspired by five different characters, moments, or quotes in the novel. Have some creative fun with this, and share your memes with me (kpiper@lcamn.org) as a Google Doc before the first day of school.
- (3) **1200 Words of Reflective Writing.** Use your choice(s) from the bulleted questions below to respond to the novel. You may choose to write one 1200-word response, two 600-word responses, or three 400-word responses. While these are not formal essays, your ideas should be expressed clearly and must be supported by specific details in the book. Include the page number in parentheses each time you include a detail, paraphrase, or quote. Edit your paragraphs and sentences for correctness. Share your writing with me (kpiper@lcamn.org) as a Google Doc before the first day of school.

Here are questions to get you thinking and writing:

- Choose any significant character. What does s/he want most? What obstacles are in the way of this? Are you satisfied by the resolution of this desire for that character?
- Why does the devil come to Moscow? What does he do there? Is there anything that surprised you about this character?
- How does Bulgakov's portrayal of Yeshua differ from the Jesus you know? Is there anything about the novel's Yeshua that affects how you imagine Jesus?
- Describe Pilate's relationship with Yeshua. In what ways do you sympathize with Pilate?

- Why is Pilate's story presented throughout the novel in several different ways (written by the Master, dreamed by Ivan, told by Woland, read by Margarita)?
- Why must the Master and Margarita leave the material world at the end of the novel?
- The best humor, absurdity, or surrealism usually serves serious ideas. In this novel, where do you see something funny, absurd, or surreal revealing ideas that matter?
- Finally, here's a wide-open one for you: What does this novel have to say about good and evil?
- And one that requires some simple research: How are The Master and Bulgakov himself alike as writers?

Additional Summer Reading for UNW INTRO TO LIT Students

- *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare (Any edition; a copy of the book will be provided for you during the school year)
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston (Any edition; a copy of the book will be provided for you during the school year)

There is no specific assignment due at the end of the summer for either of these books. However, both will be part of the Intro to Lit syllabus, and both are likely to be assigned at especially busy times of the school year (shortly before Christmas and shortly before the end of the year). I highly recommend reading these books at your leisure in the sunshine so that you can take joy in them instead of waiting to read them when your busy lives as seniors will make them feel like heavy obligations.