

Summer Reading—English 11—American Literature

Titles to be read on or before **August 15, 2019**:

The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis

You will need a copy of this book for classroom use. For the first weeks of school, please bring TSL to class with you.

1) Assignment for *The Screwtape Letters*:

- A. Read the entire book. While its brevity makes it easily read, *The Screwtape Letters* is not easily digested. Do your best to keep an open mind and a reflective spirit.
- B. For this assignment, complete a total of five (5) writings. From each handout, choose one (1) of the three (3) prompts in which to respond, ensuring that you are completing one written assignment per section. The journal entries should be at least **two (2)** paragraphs each. These journal entries should be hand-written in your notebook and more casually, yet still following standard English conventions.
- C. You will have a total of four journal entries.
- D. Please complete the pre-write activity for the prompt that you choose before crafting your response.
- E. The last piece of writing will be formatted as a formal, five (5) paragraph essay with a clear introduction and conclusion. It should be typed using Times New Roman, 12-point font and double spaced. This formal piece of writing will be a Reaction Essay that you will compose at the end of the novel.
- F. The Reaction Essay should follow these guidelines:
 - I. What message or lesson did you take from this novel?
-for whom do you believe this book was written (target audience)
-do you think that the author was successful in getting his/her message across? Why?
 - II. What did the author do well? What did the author do poorly? Write a review of the novel and support your opinions with examples from the text.
 - III. Additional comments you would like to include.
 - IV. Did the novel help you or change your thought process in any way? How?

*** Your reaction should be approximately 250 words in length.***

*** Due on or before the end of week 4****

Please complete your work in a spiral or bound notebook and bring to class on the first day of school.

I hope you enjoy your summer and your reading!
Email questions to jduling@tcsww.org

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

Letters 1-8

Choose one of the following prompts about which to write a five (5) paragraph essay.

1. Choose one of the first eight letter and write the letter from Wormwood that Screwtape is responding to. You will be able to be creative since we do not know what Wormwood said to Screwtape, but you will have to make sure that it includes the components that Screwtape makes references to and that it is written with certain topics and questions that make Screwtape's reply appropriate. Label which of Screwtape's letters yours from Wormwood comes before and make sure you include at least five paragraphs.

Letter selected: _____

Introduction idea: _____

Components that Screwtape seems to reply to:

Other creative elements: _____

Conclusion idea: _____

2. Screwtape points out several areas of our lives that we consider "safe" in regards to temptation and Satan's influence. The areas of church and prayer specifically tend to be thought of as "off limits" for evil to tempt us or twist the truth. But Screwtape shows us through his advice to Wormwood that there are ways in which even our church attendance and prayers can be rendered useless or even harmful to our relationship with God. Do you agree? Can going to church or praying ever cause you to grow farther away from God? Or is church attendance and spending time in prayer worthwhile regardless of the imperfections? If Screwtape is right, what could we do to guard against his schemes in church and prayer and if Screwtape is wrong, is there anything he *could* do to negatively impact our relationship with God through our church attendance and prayers?

Introduction idea: _____

What areas (in addition to church & prayer) do we consider "safe" and are we correct?

Is Screwtape wise in using church attendance and prayer for demonic benefit?

If right, what could we do? If wrong, could he do something else?

Conclusion idea? _____

3. Write five journal entries as if you are Wormwood's patient (John Hamilton) in which he is reflecting on some of the things that are occurring in his life, both from Wormwood's doing and from what work God is presumably doing in his life. At least three of the five need to be based on references in the letters while up to two can be completely assumed.

Entry 1: _____

Entry 2: _____

Entry 3: _____

Entry 4: _____

Entry 5: _____

Choose one of the following prompts about which to write a five (5) paragraph essay.

1. Although he wrote this book in 1941, C.S. Lewis, through Screwtape’s letters, touched on so many topics that are still relevant to today’s Christians. Choose one of the following topics from letter 9-14 to discuss in a modern context. What was the issue then, how (seemingly) is Satan using the same tactics today, and what could/should a Christian do in light of understanding the schemes of the enemy in this area of his or her life? You may choose any one of the following topics:

*flippancy

*trough sexuality

*“puritanical” religion

*past, present, future

*wearing masks

*trough mindsets

*humility

*laughter

Introduction idea: _____

The issue then: _____

The issue now: _____

What we should do: _____

Conclusion idea: _____

2. Screwtape is very harsh on Wormwood and is often frustrated by Wormwood’s ignorance. But Screwtape himself must have been young and inexperienced once. Was he as nervous as Wormwood or was he arrogant and cocky? Was he full of questions too? If so, who did he turn to and ask? What were his early experiences like? Was he the top of his class or an even bigger loser than Wormwood? Write about Screwtape’s past, particularly when he, like Wormwood, had just began his demonic career. You may write as Screwtape, as one of his instructors, as whomever you decide his mentor was, as a relative of his or as a peer. Use what you know about him now as your guide.

Perspective: _____ What was he like?: _____

An instance or event to discuss that reveals who he was . _____

How he became what he is today _____

3. What has struck you personally as something you need to evaluate in your own life? Did Screwtape’s description of exploiting laughter hit home with your life? Did his instructions about fears of and hopes for the future remind you of yourself? Did his description of the troughs sound like something you’ve been experiencing? Did the letter on wearing masks to blend in with various crowds convict you? Maybe it was one, several, all or none of these. In choosing this essay you need to select any one part of the first 16 letters that you can personally relate to and discuss its significance in your life.

Introduction idea: _____

Topic I relate to: _____

Ways it is true in my life: _____

What I plan to do about it moving forward: _____

Conclusion strategy: _____

Choose one of the following prompts about which to write a five (5) paragraph essay.

1. Write a letter as Screwtape instructing Wormwood on how to inflict misery on his patient in a few of the following ways. Choose up to three from this list and describe them in the same way that Screwtape would. Choose which letters this one would fall between and label it as a 1/2 .

How to Be Perfectly Miserable-Author unknown

1. Think about yourself	6. Insist on consideration and respect	11. Be suspicious
2. Talk about yourself	7. Demand agreement w/ all your own views	12. Be sensitive to slights
3. Use "I" as often as possible in conversation	8. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors	13. Be jealous and envious
4. Always mirror yourself in the opinion of others	9. Never forget a service you have rendered	14. Never forget a criticism
5. Listen greedily to what people say about you.	10. Expect to be appreciated	15. Trust nobody but yourself

Misery tactics selected: _____, _____, _____

Ideas of how Screwtape would use them: _____

2. Letters 18 and 19 center on the idea that Love (or at least the Enemy's *disinterested love*) is impossible. This is because Screwtape and all of hell are incapable of understanding love; therefore, to them, it cannot exist. Why is this? What "truths" in their understanding does love contradict? This essay has two optional directions. You could write this more formally as an analysis of what love is and why hell cannot comprehend it or you can write it more artistically by writing either the report letter on heresy that Wormwood obviously submitted to the Secret Police or the Interview Screwtape had with the Secret Police and how he managed to talk his way out of a heresy trial. Any of the three options will require you to investigate the idea of the "impossibility of love".

3. Marriage is a very powerful thing. It can be an excellent tool for Satan to use in our lives to bind us and keep us from serving the Lord and achieving our full potential, or it can be a wonderful gift given by God to make us stronger and exponentially increase our positive impact on the world. This is why Screwtape is advising Wormwood to be very watchful and to do whatever he can to get John married and why he is so extremely outraged at John's choice in girlfriend. Why does Screwtape hate her? Who is she that makes her so threatening? Again you have two choices. Either write this as a more formal essay investigating the power (positive or negative) of marriage or you can write a more creative letter as the tempter assigned to John's girlfriend and in it discuss the obvious struggles she is having to corrupt this young woman and her fears of her finding a man committed to serving the Lord. Who did she hope to get this girl to marry? What benefit would this have had? How has she tempted this girl in the past and what is her plan now that this girl is dating John?

Choose one of the following prompts about which to write a five (5) paragraph essay.

1. At the end of The Screwtape Letters, John has died and gone to heaven and Wormwood is informed that he will now be consumed by his fellow demons, including Screwtape, as punishment for his failure. Write a short narrative, a Letter 32 if you will, that depicts either the scene as John enters Heaven or the scene as Wormwood is about to be consumed. If you choose the heavenly scene, include dialogue between John and God, Jesus, angels, or fellow saints. If you choose the punishment scene, focus on the final words of Wormwood or what Screwtape or Satan or the other demons say before his punishment is inflicted. In either essay, focus on the dialogue. I expect to read a narrative that shows a depth of thought and weaves in the spiritual concepts of the book and not a few pages of mere gruesome details or fairytale pictures.

Scene selected: _____

Who is present: _____

Primary message: _____

2. There is no denying that The Screwtape Letters was littered with excellent quotes. Some were startling, some thought provoking, some convicting and some unsettling. Using either your own memory and book or the following website, select 3 quotes from the book to discuss. Briefly share where they were found (if known) and the context in which they were said. Devote the majority of your paragraph to discussing the significance of each quote and why it made your list of top three. Begin and end your essay with a strong introduction and conclusion.

Suggested Website: <http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2920952-the-screwtape-letters>

Intro Idea: _____

Quotes or concepts I will be looking for: _____

Conclusion Idea: _____

3. In writing The Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis chose to use a backwards perspective. That is to say he is writing an apologetic text to be used for spiritual growth, from the perspective of our enemy. He chooses a demonic main character to teach his readers about Christianity. Why do you think he made this choice? How difficult do you think it was to write in this way? The idea of writing a Christian novel from Hell's perspective is crazy, genius, or just plain irreverent and wrong. Which do you think it is? Do you think it was an effective choice? Why or why not? Did reading this book benefit you in any way? Do you think there could be circumstances in which it would benefit or harm the spiritual life of others to read it?

Intro Idea: _____

Backwards Perspective: _____

Effectiveness of the book: _____

Beneficial or Harmful: _____

Conclusion: _____

Reaction Essay Rubric

Introduction	-novel, author identified correctly -clear thesis or purpose statement	1	3	5
Content	-intended audience identified -author's purpose explained -author's intended message -effectiveness of methods employed to convey message discussed	5	10	15
Reaction	-students opinions are clearly stated -all opinions are supported with evidence/examples from the text -student incorporated 1 direction citation TO SUPPORT his/her opinion.	5	10	15
Style & Organization	-student displays clarity of expression and is concise in word choice -student is creative and his/her voice is clearly his own -grammar and punctuation rules are followed -citations accurate/MLA style guidelines -clear and helpful transistions from idea to idea -well-developed paragraphs	4	7	10
Form	-essay is free of spelling, typing, and proofreading errors -Times New Roman, 12pt. font, double spaced -essay is typed and printed and submitted to teacher on time			
Conclusion	-logical progression to ending -summary of your analysis -reiteration of thesis statement	1	3	5

Total Points: _____/50

Additional Comments: