

10th Grade English Summer Reading Assignments

First Assignment - Due June 29

The Book: *Tales From Shakespeare* by Charles and Mary Lamb.

Master essayist of the English Romantic age Charles Lamb undertook with his sister Mary the telling of twenty of Shakespeare's greatest plays in prose form. Of these I have chosen ten which are not normally covered in high school. They are

The Tempest

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Much Ado about Nothing

As You Like It

King Lear

The Taming of the Shrew

The Comedy of Errors

Twelfth Night

Hamlet

Othello

While reading the relatively brief prose renditions of these plays doesn't provide the depth of experience of reading or seeing Shakespeare's work in its original form, being familiar with the characters and stories should prove to be a great boost to your cultural literacy.

The Assignment: Read each story listed above. As soon as you finish one, write out the names of the main characters with a brief character sketch of each. Then write a one-page plot summary. Finally, write a paragraph explaining your own reaction to the story.

Second Assignment - Due August 10

The Book: *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

Saint-Exupery was a pioneering French aircraft pilot whose exploits are covered in best-selling accounts such as *Night Flight* and *Wind, Sand, and Stars*. With *The Little Prince* (*le petit prince* in the original French), Saint-Exupery ventures into the literary world of fables and philosophy. A book "written for children for adults," *The Little Prince* is a story of many levels, offering a range of pleasures from simple amusement to profound insight into human nature.

The Assignment: Read the book and write an overall plot summary (2-3 pages). Also describe the characters in a paragraph each. Then, consider the inhabitants of the asteroids and what they may represent as aspects of human nature. What do you think the author's overall message is in the book? How is the book for adults as well as for children? Answer ALL these questions thoughtfully.

NOTE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE LEGIBLY **HANDWRITTEN**.

Any questions about these assignments may be emailed to housecarl@bellsouth.net.