

This summer, please read *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg.

You should be able to find inexpensive copies at local used book stores or from websites such as www.amazon.com, ebay.com, or addall.com. Local library systems have several copies available to borrow as well. It is also perfectly acceptable to use an ebook reader.

There is a movie based on this novel. It is not the same as the novel. You need to actually read the book.

Expected work that you will do on your own without any help from the internet:

1. Take your own notes as you read the book, focusing on *your thoughts and reactions* to the story. These notes will be used to help you write your paper.

Advice:

- Since this book does not have traditional “chapters,” I would recommend finding a way to illustrate the different sections in your notes, especially since locations and time periods change frequently. You might write down the locations and dates listed at the beginning of each section. You might also color-code the different storylines in your notes.
- I am *not* looking for a synopsis of the book in these notes. I will be able to tell if you plagiarize the notes because they will not follow the guidelines below. Please do not plagiarize.
- Because of the length of the novel, you should end up with multiple pages of notes that cover events in the novel from the beginning, middle, and end.
- Most notes are written in sentence fragments, not complete sentences. Notes will not be graded for grammar.
- While typed notes are acceptable, handwritten notes have been proven to aid in retention of information.

Your notes should focus on

- a. *your responses* to and *questions* about the events, characters, themes, format, and language of the novel. Both intellectual and emotional responses are welcome and encouraged.
- b. places where you were confused (if that occurs)
- c. specific topics/sections that you would like to discuss later

- d. interesting or meaningful quotations (*including page numbers*) and your thoughts about them. Quotes are needed for the paper.
 - e. comparisons to other literature, film, art, world events, or even your own life
 - f. vocabulary words and terms you don't know (ideally: guess at their definitions, then look them up and write down the actual definition)
2. Write a short analytical paper (600 words minimum). The paper should
- a. be in MLA format;
 - b. include a strong thesis statement, introduction, body (which will include your observations and ideas), and conclusion;
 - c. contain examples that prove the points you make, including *at least two* relevant quotes from the book as evidence

Possible topics (email me over the summer for approval of a different topic):

- A. Describe some of the main issues that are addressed in the novel. What does the novel seem to say about these issues? Do you think these issues are in existence in America today? Explain your answer using specific examples.
- B. The novel is not written in chronological order and features different perspectives, including excerpts from newspapers. What do you notice about how these different sections relate to each other? What are the effects, positive or negative, of using this structure instead of a traditional, chronological story?
- C. Is Idgie's storyline or Evelyn's the "main" story? What relationship do the stories have to each other (if any)? What would be lost if one or the other were not a part of the novel?

The essay should be uploaded to www.turnitin.com using the following class information:

Class ID: 21414978
Password: dragons512

You should not upload your notes; they should arrive in class with you. Be prepared to turn them in for grading.

All work is due before or at the beginning of your first appearance in class.

Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you in the fall. If you have any problems or questions, please email me for assistance.

Ms. Gail Giewont

ggiewont@args.us