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During your first unit of study in American Literature and History, you will explore the concept of exceptionalism in America as it applies to a variety of factors.

Step One
First, read the essay titled "A City Upon a Hill: American Literature and the Ideology of Exceptionalism" written by Thomas B. Byers. You can locate the assigned essay using this link: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=11&ved=2ahUKEwjdj5XKsrThAhWSrVkKHbgRCGEQFjAKegQIARAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Frauli.cbs.dk%2Findex.php%2Fassc%2Farticle%2Fdownload%2F1121%2F1124&usg=AOvVaw371B4uObxiWKhrDARfs97r

While reading the above essay, you should highlight and maintain active engagement with the text so that you are well prepared to use the information presented in your own literary analysis. Take notes over the author's thesis and argument. Pay special attention to how the author defines and applies American Exceptionalism to literature. Consider this essay a piece of research that will be used to formulate a literary analysis essay.

Step Two
Then, obtain *The Poisonwood Bible* written by Barbara Kingsolver. Much like the above task, please take notes while you read. When submitting your final summer assignment, you must also submit your notes. Therefore, if you write them in the book or handwrite them, you must take photos and upload them to Schoology on the due date to receive credit.

Step Three
After reading both the novel and the required essay, please construct a 7-8 page literary analysis paper where you either defend or refute the conceptual ideology that America, as evidenced through the selected literature, **is** or **is not** an exceptional country. Your essay must be a literary analysis of the text that supports the claim you make through careful consideration of the class system divide, the moral questions that arise, the conflicts that occur, the characters who are created, and the overall plot of the novel.

Your essay must include in-text citations from both the novel as well as the assigned academic essay to meet the minimum criteria. All citations are to be in MLA. The following link can serve as a guide: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

The paper should be primarily made up of three parts. First, contextualize the time period of *The Poisonwood Bible*. This includes discussion of American values and culture in 1959 (the setting of the novel), but also the context of the time when the author was writing (1998). When writing about 1959, consider major events and people between 1954-1959, think about social, political, and economic causes and motivations. Explain how these people or events demonstrate major ideas about American identity (i.e. What does it mean to be an American?). Specifically focus on how the American identity of the late 1950s reflects or negates the idea of American Exceptionalism. Find instances from the novel in which the author incorporates the values and conceptions of being American that are typical of the ideas in the late 1950s. Then, contextualize the 1990s by considering the major events and people and how they formed the American identity of the 1990s, think about social, political, and economic causes and motivations. Also find evidence from the novel where the author reflects those values and conflicts and where she might be commenting on the time of the 1990s. Ultimately, you need to explain how American identity of the late 1950s and the 1990s do or do not reflect American Exceptionalism. **NOTE:** *Historical context is NOT a summary. Historical context makes an argument.*

Reference the following websites for examples and insights into writing historical context.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1uTpp70YMT3kh4JyA_lhc3xr1Mtobo5cH

http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/Historicalcontext.html

https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-historical-context-1857069

http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/ssisr/html/20-4/ri1/historical_context.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NF3ejGDCpdE

The second part of the paper should consider the voice of the author in terms of a thematic focus. For example, if your analysis of the theme claims that Kingsolver's voice refutes the concept that America is, in fact, exceptional in terms of racial relationships and equality, then your analysis should include supporting details to highlight your claim, including 1-2 direct quotes from the text (of either the novel or the essay) in each body paragraph. An analysis considers perspective NOT plot. Focus on how the author's perspective shines through tone, character development and conflict. Then, evaluate your response (mood) to the text as well as your overall perspective of the central message (theme) of the work. How does the essay support your claim? Evaluate the language presented and develop a claim that you can explore and defend with textual evidence. A literary analysis paper is persuasive in context. Your task as the writer is to make a strong claim (thesis) and then defend your claim as correct through the incorporation of in-text citations and your explanation of **how** those citations are connected to your stance/thesis statement.

Reference the following websites for examples and insights into writing literary analysis.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pr4BjZkQ5Nc

https://www.roanestate.edu/owl/writinglitanalysis1.html

https://www.bucks.edu/media/bcccmedialibrary/pdf/HOWTOWRITEALITERARYANALYSISESSAY_10.15.07_001.pdf

The third part of the paper should focus on the process of science. Use the following resources and any other primary resources that you find to research the history of malaria and also its present day status in the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa. Compare and contrast the traditional African treatment of malaria to the modern American/European approach. Do you believe that the United States commitment to the process of science make it a more exceptional culture than the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)? Use the following resources and the ideology of exceptionalism to make and support your claim. Be sure to consider climate, economical and social factors in both the US and Africa that have contributed to the current status of malaria infections.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK215638/

https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/about/history/index.html

https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria

http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/Health/Regional/Africa/Malaria/index.html

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1934578X1601100309

https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/rutgers-lib/26656/PDF/1/play/ **(Only chapter 1 is relevant for this assignment)**

11th Grade Summer Assignment Rubric

	4 Advanced	3 Proficient	2 Emerging	1 Not Yet
Thesis/ Introduction	Thesis presents a specific argument. The argument is clearly crafted in a concise sentence and creates a clear focus for the direction of the paper. Thesis is not based on plot or summary, but instead focuses on creating a clear claim on issues of American Identity and American Exceptionalism.	Thesis presents a mostly specific argument. The thesis is clear, but surface level. There is little focused direction of the paper. Thesis is based on too much summary, or does not reflect deep thought about the novel.	Thesis is specific or presents an argument, but not both. Vague and/or ambiguous claim is made without clear focus point of analysis.	Thesis is hard to find. The thesis fails to make a specific argument. Introduction merely summarizes rather than setting up the argument (i.e., Mr. Ross and Mrs. Nabb have read the book, don't need a summary).
Historical Context	The historical context makes a relevant argument that connects issues of American Identity to specific points of discussion in the book. Both the late 1950s and the 1990s are considered. Ultimately, this historical contexts is used to support an argument made about how American exceptionalism is or is not supported by the novel.	The historical context makes a relevant argument and is more than a summary. Some details may be missing or wrong or relies too heavily on one time period, not an even consideration of both. There is unreliable connection of the context to the overall argument of the paper.	The historical context is mostly summary and not enough argument. Some details may be missing or wrong. There is little to no connection to the overall argument. Only the late 1950s or the 1990s are considered.	There is no historical context. Only summaries are given and there is little to no tie-in to the novel or an argument for the paper. Many details are wrong or missing. Dubious connection to the overall argument. Only the late 1950s or the 1990s are considered.
Literary Analysis	Beautifully crafted analysis of a thematic focus is maintained throughout the paper. Writer does not summarize the story at all, but instead analyzes the purpose of the author's writing through persuasive language with a beautiful integration of textual support.	Well crafted analysis with a thematic focus is identifiable, but writer provides minimal summary that detracts from overall persuasive rhetoric in the paper. Quotes are well integrated but author does not perfectly explain relation of quotes to claims.	Analysis is present but paper is mostly comprised of summary with some language of persuasion mixed in. Quotes are dropped in with little to no context or analysis to the greater clarification of claims.	There is no analysis present in the paper. Paper is comprised on simplistic opinion and reiteration of plot (i.e." I don't think America is exceptional because people were treated poorly in the book.") Quotes are sparse or entirely missing/writer relies only on quotes with no follow-up analysis or explanation.

Process of Science	Compares and contrasts traditional treatment in Africa to modern approach in the US and Europe supported by evidence.. Makes an evidence based claim (utilizing multiple sources) about whether the US commitment to the process of science makes it a more exceptional culture than the DRC. Writer considers climate, economical and social factors in BOTH the US and Africa	Compares and contrasts traditional treatment in Africa to modern approach in the US and Europe supported by evidence.. Makes an evidence based claim about whether the US commitment to the process of science makes it a more exceptional culture than the DRC. Writer considers some of the factors climate, economical and social factors in the US or Africa (argument may be one sided)	Compares and contrasts traditional treatment in Africa to modern approach in the US and Europe loosely supported by evidence.. Makes an evidence based claim (loosely supported by evidence) about whether the US commitment to the process of science makes it a more exceptional culture than the DRC. Writer may not consider climate, economical and social factors in the US and Africa	Comparisons are not based in evidence. Claims are too broad and not supported by evidence. Or Section may be incomplete.
Mechanics	Few grammatical errors. Paper is structured well and grammar helps understanding of the paper. Works Cited page is organized, follows MLA conventions, and is easy to read.	Some grammatical errors, but for the most part it does not inhibit the understanding of the paper. Few problematice in-text citation or Work Cited page has few errors. MLA is applied inconsistently or inappropriately.	Enough grammatical errors to inhibit the understanding of the paper. MLA in-text citations and Works Cited page are inconsistent and do not reflect MLA conventions well.	ONE instance of an uncited quote or paraphrase automatically qualifies the paper to receive one point, no matter how good other sections are. Works Cited page is a mess and unclear. Enough grammatical errors to inhibit the understanding of the paper.
Notes	Notes reflect thoughtful interaction with the novel. Interesting questions are posed by the reader to the text. These questions are also answered or an attempt to answer them exists. Questions posed focus on interpreting the text, not focused on summarizing the plot.	Notes were mostly thoughtful but also had some filler. Questions are posed, but not meaningful questions. Questions only lead to summary.	Notes appear rushed or consist of simply highlighting and underline rather than active textual engagement. A summary is evident, but analysis is sorely lacking	Little to no notes exist. Notes are surface level. Sentence fragments are fragments of thought.