

AP Language and Composition  
2006 Summer Assignment  
Mrs. Connie White  
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Read the following:

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* by Frederick Douglass

For *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, complete the following assignment.

**Objective:** Analyzing literary devices and language to determine allegorical meaning. Students will be expected to annotate the text and be able to discuss the devices and determine theme. Students should also be able to point out historical accuracy and inaccuracies within the story.

An **allegory** is a story with two levels of meaning—one level is literal and one level is symbolic. This story is an allegory.

An **allusion** is a reference to something from mythology, the Bible, history, etc. When an author makes an allusion he assumes you know the material and this reference helps make his point. Because we live in a different time, we often need footnotes. I am going to assume you know enough Bible and history to understand the allusions.

A **symbol** is an object that represents something else.

An **archetype** is a universal symbol, one that means the same thing to every culture in every time. For example, water universally represents cleansing.

A **motif** is something that recurs throughout the story, an idea, a symbol, etc. These are topics within the story.

A **theme** is the overall message of the story. For example, death is a motif. A theme must be state in a complete sentence and must be true for all people (not just the characters).

As you read, annotate your copy:

- Circle all names
- Underline all colors
- Underline Biblical language and references
- Underline all nature description
- Underline all references to dark/light
- Underline all references to fire

In your margins, note symbols, allusions, etc. Bring annotated copy to class the FIRST day of school.