

Worldview English: American Literature

Summer Homework Challenge

Worldview English Summer Homework Challenges introduce and expand the year-long Worldview topic.

This year's project gives students an opportunity to get to know *who the Puritans and Separatists really were*. This is important because secular, revisionist culture twists the truth which in turn poisons societal attitudes toward traditional Christian values. Students must learn how to separate historical facts from revisionist claims.

This year's summer homework has two parts – see below. If you would prefer to print this assignment, find it attached to this forum message. You may need to be logged into your RISE account to access the attachment.

PART ONE – *Valley of Vision* Response Journal

Go to <https://banneroftruth.org/us/devotional-series/the-valley-of-vision-devotional/>

This is a collection of poems found in the book *Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotionals*.

Read at least ten Puritan prayers in this collection. Choose five and write a journal response of no less than 175 words for each.

Journal Prompts:

1. CONNECT

Write about one of the following connections:



Text to Text – Compare and contrast the prayer to something else you have read, such as a scripture passage or another poem. Describe how the two selections are similar and how they are different.



Text to Self – Describe a personal experience or observation the prayer brings to mind. How does that experience or observation give you insight into the prayer's topic(s)?



Text to World - Explain how the prayer relates to topics or events going on in the world at large.

2. QUESTION

Theology is the study of the nature of God and religious truth. Record a theological question the prayer brings to your mind. Investigate the answer and record your findings and thoughts.

3. EXTRACT

Quote an excerpt of the prayer that you think is interesting or remarkable. Explain what it is about the quote that makes you want to save it. How does it inspire you or make you think? If it is an example of good writing, how so?

4. TRANSLATE

Translate the prayer into modern language by rewriting it in your own words. For inspiration you may be interested in Sovereign Grace Music's album of modern songs based on the prayers in *The Valley of Vision*. Listen here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgfUYOPpZQY&list=OLAK5uy_kBw80vFe7t3lYCcTJD3nzA8zjdzAGCBhw&index=2&ab_channel=SovereignGraceMusic-Topic

5. ANALYZE

What figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, alliteration etc.) or rhetorical devices (tricolon, epistrophe, rhetorical question, apostrophe, etc.) does the prayer's author use to create enhance the prayer's meaning? Give examples with explanations proving your analyses, then explain how each device make the prayer more expressive or effective.

PART TWO – Read *Almost Home: A Story Based on the Life of the Mayflower's Mary Chilton**

This quick, valuable secondary-source account is based on eye-witness testimonies of the pilgrim's experience. Be ready for a quiz on the first day of class. I suggest not reading the book until the first or second week of August to have the material fresh in your mind for the quiz.

*Students who have read *Almost Home* three years ago for one of my other English classes may reread it (it's been three years!) or they may read the first two chapters of William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation* (pages 7-40) instead. This is a first-hand account of the Mayflower crossing the Pilgrim's first winter! Find it here:

<https://archive.org/details/OfPlymouthPlantation/page/n11/mode/2up>