The Stranger by Albert Camus; Translated by Matthew Ward

This work in translation takes a look at the hero/anti-hero theme. As such, we all expect a typical hero to have a few basic qualities: courage, honesty, on the side of the just. What do we expect from the more complex anti-hero: an ability to stick to his convictions, maybe a few relatable flaws, or even a sense of humor? Can we relate to a figure who shuns society’s mores? Read on.

The sentences are short and exact, simply bundling the complexity of their ideas with precise words. The philosophy of Absurdism that drives the protagonist, Meursault, will prove, as Sartre states in his essay “Camus’s ‘The Outsider’”, “All the sentences of his book are equal to each other, just as all the absurd man’s experiences are equal.” Meursault’s actions will pull you quickly through the story.

Tasks: A formal, in-class essay will take place after Socratic Seminars, during the first two weeks of school.

1. Buy a copy of Albert Camus’ The Stranger **Must be Matthew Ward’s translation**.
2. Annotate for analysis/inquiry/meaning-making beyond the surface.
3. Color-Mark Motifs: indifference; violence; nature in Part I.
4. Color-Mark Motifs: religion; justice; freedom in Part II.
5. Double Entry / Reader Responses: Complete 10 thoughtful entries (Try to do this AS YOU READ).
6. Word Study: Be prepared for an evaluation on the list of vocabulary words attached. Create a sentence in which you apply the vocabulary word to either a character/conflict/setting/scenario from this work. How can you connect the vocabulary word to the work itself? Sentences must be handwritten and original.

Completed Work Check & Due: 9/12/2019

The Stranger ~ Background Notes/Assignments

The Stranger, by Albert Camus, was written during World War II, in French and published in 1942. The setting of the novel is the north African country of Algeria and its capital, Algiers, which is near where the author was born and raised.

The Stranger has been called an “existential” or “nihilistic” novel. Existentialism is a philosophy professing the belief that the universe is indifferent to mankind and that most of life is futile, absurd, and incomprehensible. Existentialism sees the individual as existing in a meaningless universe where events are beyond his or her control. Nihilism is not unlike existentialism, but nihilism goes further: it rejects all positive values, and its followers believe in nothing. There are elements of both of these philosophies in The Stranger.

Camus himself was said to believe that individuals are seeking beliefs or value systems, but the world offers them none, forcing human beings into an absurdist or meaningless life. Existential thought will factor in to your understanding of and our discussion of The Stranger. *Prestwick House
The Stranger Vocabulary

Word Study: Be prepared for an evaluation on the list of vocabulary words attached. Create an original sentence in which you apply the vocabulary word to either a character; conflict; scene; setting; scenario, or OTHER, from this work. You can create original sentences, or combine ideas to create a more fluid paragraph. Choice is yours!

1. **amplify** to intensify
2. **athwart** from side to side
3. **aversion** dislike
4. **befuddlement** confusion
5. **beneficent** favorable
6. **bier** a stand
7. **bilious** peevish, irritable
8. **callousness** insensitivity
9. **cogent** forceful and convincing
10. **collusion** a secret agreement, a conspiracy
11. **compunction** feeling of uneasiness, remorse
12. **cordial** warm and friendly
13. **curtly** concisely, sometimes perceived as rudely
14. **destitute** without any means of support
15. **dispatch** a report
16. **execution** curses, loathed
17. **expostulate** to reason by way of warning
18. **flout** to ignore, to show contempt
19. **impartial** unbiased, fair
20. **implacable** relentless
21. **inexorable** unalterable
22. **infirmity** weakness, illness
23. **ingenuousness** innocence, sincerity
24. **irksome** annoying, irritating
25. **odious** hateful, despicable
26. **palaver** chattering
27. **pallor** paleness of skin
28. **parricide** killing one's father
29. **pendulous** hanging down loosely
30. **perturbed** bothered, troubled
31. **peruse** to examine with great detail
32. **pince-nez** spectacles
33. **plausible** believable, reasonable
34. **privation** lack of comforts of life
35. **prostrate** to cast oneself down on the ground in submission or humility
36. **reproachful** disapproving
37. **respite** a break from something
38. **solicitous** concerned about another's welfare
39. **sordid** morally degraded
40. **squalid** filthy, repulsive
41. **squeamish** easily disgusted
42. **strident** harsh or shrill
43. **taciturn** saying very little, reticent
44. **tirade** a rant, long angry violent speech
45. **tremulous** vibratory, quivering

The Stranger Double Entry Journals
Double Entry / Reader Responses: Complete 11 (Eleven: one for every chapter) thoughtful entries. (Try to do this AS YOU READ).
Entry Topics: Consider diction; imagery; syntax/structure; tone; character, OTHER. Include page #s!

**STUDENT SAMPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 2:</th>
<th>Meursault’s daily life is monotonous and mind-numbing. This can be inferred through the use of short diction and many commas in this excerpt. Words like ‘anyway’ and ‘nothing’ exemplify Meursault’s apathy to most events occurring in his life. Also the fact these disappointing and boring event’s to Meursault are listed helps illustrate his lack of interest in most aspects of his life. Nothing has changed for him and nothing is looking to change, leaving his life repetitive and tiresome.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“It occurred to me that anyway one more Sunday was over, that Maman was buried now, that I was going back to work, and that, really, nothing had changed.” (page, 24)</td>
<td></td>
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