



The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading

Teacher's Name: Mrs. King

School Year: 2026-2027

Grade Level: 9

Course No.: 111

Course Name: Literature & Composition

Academic Level (AP/Honors/CP/Archangel): Honors

ASSIGNMENT

We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson

Your assignment is attached below. You can download it and fill it out online and then print it out, or print it and then fill it in by hand. Bring it with you on the first day of class.

CONTACT

If you have any questions this summer, please reach out. My email address is mking@thecatholichighschol.org.



Summer Reading Packet: We Have Always Lived in the Castle

9th grade Honors Literature/Composition

Name: _____

Word Bank of Literary Terms

Use these terms in your **Literary Analysis** column to show deep understanding.

- **Unreliable Narrator:** A storyteller who cannot be fully trusted due to their age, mental state, or extreme biases (e.g., Merricat).
 - **Gothic Setting:** A gloomy, isolated place (like the Blackwood house) that feels mysterious, decaying, or dangerous.
 - **Motif:** A repeating idea, object, or phrase that helps develop a theme (e.g., Merricat's buried magic charms, cleaning, cooking).
 - **Conflict:** The main struggle in the book. This story features **Character vs. Society** (the Blackwoods vs. the villagers).
 - **Symbolism:** When an object represents a bigger idea (e.g., the locked front gate represents complete isolation).
 - **Foreshadowing:** Hints or clues about what will happen later in the story.
 - **Tone:** The author's or narrator's attitude toward the story (e.g., eerie, calm, creepy, or childlike).
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Chapter-by-Chapter Journal Template

Directions:

1. Write a **one-sentence summary** for each chapter.
2. Select **two important quotes** from each chapter and note the page number.



3. Write a **2–3 sentence analysis** explaining how the quote reveals a character trait, conflict, or theme.

Chapter Summary	Core Quote & Page #	Literary Analysis & Annotation
<p>Chapter 1 (EXAMPLE)</p> <p>Eighteen-year-old Merricat Blackwood describes her isolated life with her sister Constance and sick Uncle Julian, and she faces mean teasing from local villagers during a grocery trip.</p>	<p>Quote 1:</p> <p><i>"I have often thought that with any luck at all I could have been born a werewolf... but I have had to be content with what I had."</i></p> <p>(Page 1)</p>	<p>Analysis 1:</p> <p>This quote shows that Merricat is a strange and unusual narrator. Instead of wanting to be normal or make friends, she wishes she were a monster. This tells the reader right away that she feels completely disconnected from regular society and prefers dark, magical ideas.</p>
	<p>Quote 2:</p> <p><i>"The people of the village have always hated us."</i></p> <p>(Page 4)</p>	<p>Analysis 2:</p> <p>This sets up the main conflict of the story. There is a deep divide between the Blackwood family and the rest of the town. The townspeople treat Merricat like an outsider, which explains why she and her sister choose to stay locked away in their big house.</p>



Chapter 2	Quote 1: (Page ___)	Analysis 1:
	Quote 2: (Page ___)	Analysis 2:
Chapter 3	Quote 1: (Page ___)	Analysis 1:
	Quote 2: (Page ___)	Analysis 2:
Chapter 4	Quote 1: (Page ___)	Analysis 1:
	Quote 2:	Analysis 2:



	(Page ____)	
Chapter 5	Quote 1: (Page ____)	Analysis 1:
	Quote 2: (Page ____)	Analysis 2:
Chapter 6	Quote 1: (Page ____)	Analysis 1:
	Quote 2: (Page ____)	Analysis 2:
Chapter 7	Quote 1: (Page ____)	Analysis 1:



	<p>Quote 2:</p> <p>(Page ___)</p>	<p>Analysis 2:</p>
<p>Chapter 8</p>	<p>Quote 1:</p> <p>(Page ___)</p>	<p>Analysis 1:</p>
	<p>Quote 2:</p> <p>(Page ___)</p>	<p>Analysis 2:</p>
<p>Chapter 9</p>	<p>Quote 1:</p> <p>(Page ___)</p>	<p>Analysis 1:</p>
	<p>Quote 2:</p> <p>(Page ___)</p>	<p>Analysis 2:</p>
<p>Chapter 10</p>	<p>Quote 1:</p>	<p>Analysis 1:</p>



	(Page ____)	
	Quote 2: (Page ____)	Analysis 2: