



LAKEHILL WARRIORS

*Lakehill Preparatory School guides motivated students to learn with curiosity, lead with confidence, and serve with compassion.
Our challenging and nurturing educational community inspires students to become collaborative problem-solvers who live with integrity.*

Name _____

Date _____

Class Period _____

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment: The Big Sleep

This summer you will read: *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler, ISBN 10: 0394758285, ISBN 13: 978-0394758282.

This is a hard-boiled mystery that explores the corruption of society, wealth and status, cynicism, survival, masculinity, and gender roles.

As you read, consider and annotate for the following:

1. How is Philip Marlowe characterized?
 - A. How does Philip Marlowe display traits of masculinity? How does this fit with “traditional” views of masculinity?
 - B. How does Marlowe’s masculine actions and traits influence his views of other characters and the world?
 - C. How do Marlowe’s prejudices impact his experiences?
2. How are the women characterized in the novel?
 - A. Compare their characterization with that of Marlowe.
 - B. Consider how Marlowe views/describes them.
3. How are characters of various classes depicted in the novel?
 - A. How is social mobility, meaning moving from one class to another, usually from a lower class to upper class depicted?
 - B. How does Chandler characterize consequences for the various classes?
 - C. How and why is Marlowe able to interact with each of these classes and how does he view his relationship to them?
 - i. How does Marlowe view the various characters within their social class?
4. How does Chandler depict LA?
 - A. Consider how those in power behave and what Marlowe learns about them throughout the novel.
 - B. Compare the societal norms and expectations of the various classes and how they interact with the setting. What does this say about society?
5. Which characters are cynical about the city, power, survival?
6. How are additional crimes or immoral activities tied to the original crime Marlowe is asked to investigate?
 - A. What does this say about society?
 - B. What does this say about the various other characters?
 - C. What does this say about social class?
7. Consider how thematic ideas and characters in the novel display ideas about the American dream.