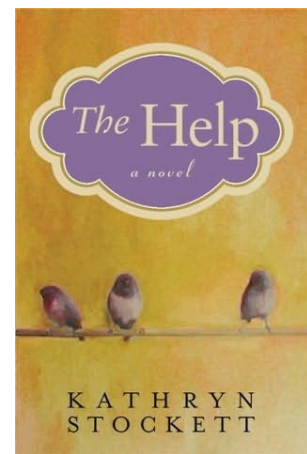


COURSE TITLE Honors American Literature (**Grade 10**)

CHOICE TEXT *The Help*

AUTHOR Katherine Stockett

GENRE Historical Fiction



DESCRIPTION

Jackson, Mississippi, in the early 1960s is a city of tradition. Silver is used at bridge-club luncheons, pieces polished to perfection by black maids who “yes, ma’am,” and “no, ma’am,” to the young white ladies who order the days. This is the world Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan enters when she graduates from Ole Miss and returns to the family plantation, but it is a world that, to her, seems ripe for change. As she observes her friend Elizabeth rudely interact with Aibileen, the gentle black woman who is practically raising Elizabeth’s two-year-old daughter, Mae Mobley, Skeeter latches onto the idea of writing the story of such fraught domestic relations from the help’s point of view. With the reluctant assistance of Aibileen’s feisty friend, Minny, Skeeter manages to interview a dozen of the city’s maids, and the book, when it is finally published, rocks Jackson’s world in unimaginable ways. With pitch-perfect tone and an unerring facility for character and setting, Stockett’s richly accomplished debut novel inventively explores the unspoken ways in which the nascent civil rights and feminist movements threatened the Southern status quo (Editorial Review from Booklist).

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

While you read, you should be annotating for the high and low points of one of the main character’s life and journey, in addition to characterization, plot, symbolism, theme, etc. Be sure to think about and identify the events and situations that have affected the high and low points of her life. Use any method of annotation you like including, but not limited to: Literature Log, post-it notes, marginal notes, highlighting.

- **Due First Day of School:** bring your annotations with you to class
- **Future Assignments:** During the first week, you will work to complete a graphic organizer in response to an essay prompt using your annotations.