

# Pre-AP World History and Geography

Summer Reading 2024

Mrs. Harrigan/Mrs. Vanni

Welcome to Pre-AP World History! We are so glad that you have chosen to challenge yourself with our course. Your summer reading assignment is designed to introduce course themes, enhance your interest, and increase your commitment to the AP program. Learning, thinking and commitment will help you enjoy and succeed in the class.

This year students will read The Good Earth, by Pearl S. Buck. This novel gives the reader details of traditional Chinese life, customs and attitudes in the early twentieth century. It is a glimpse into the life of Chinese peasants and the social changes that affect their traditions.

You must complete this assignment by **Friday, September 13, 2024**. It will serve as a foundation for a key portion of your 9<sup>th</sup> grade coursework, as we will be spending a significant amount of time learning about traditional Chinese culture and history. You will also need this assignment to complete a writing piece in the fall.

**A. Assignment:** As you read the novel, pay particular attention to the themes\* below:

- Husband-wife relationships
- Parent-child relationships
- The relationship between a husband or wife with the in-law parents
- Relationships between members of the extended family
- Aesthetics and ideas about beauty
- Social mobility and class distinctions
- Division of labor (gender)
- Relationships among siblings
- Urban vs. rural attitudes
- Relationships between women of differing status

\* If you are unsure about the meaning of any of the themes, please research the meaning.

**B. Directions:** Choose two (2) pairs of characters from the character list (ON BACK). YOU MAY ONLY USE EACH CHARACTER ONCE. THERE ARE 4 CHARACTERS IN TOTAL- SO THINK BEFORE YOU CHOOSE YOUR PAIRS.

For **EACH** pair:

- **Task #1:** Describe each character. (4 characters total)
- **Task #2:** Explain how the relationship between the characters you have chosen reflects one of the themes from the list. Be sure to use specific examples from the story to support your analysis.

## **DIRECTIONS:** Please read carefully!!!

- ❖ All entries should be **HANDWRITTEN**.
- ❖ Please do not type your entries; however, your work should show care, attention to detail, and be legible.
- ❖ Be sure to work independently (this is not meant to be a cooperative assignment) and all answers should be in **YOUR OWN WORDS!**
- ❖ PLEASE DO NOT MARK UP THE BOOK. IF YOU WANT TO TAKE NOTES, USE POST-ITS.

**DUE DATE: Friday, September 13, 2024**

In China, family names (last names) come before first names.

**Character List:**

Wang Lung

O-lan

Wang Lung's father (Old Man Wang)

Wang Lung's uncle

Wang Lung's uncle's wife

Wang Lung's uncle's son

Wang Lung's eldest son (Nung En)

Wang Lung's second son (Nung Wen)

Wang Lung's third son

Wang Lung's eldest daughter ("poor fool")

Wang Lung's youngest daughter

Lotus Flower

Cuckoo

Pear Blossom

Ching

Local grain merchant Liu

Wife of Wang Lung's eldest son

Wife of Wang Lung's second son

Yang

The Old Lord (Master) Hwang

The Old Mistress Hwang

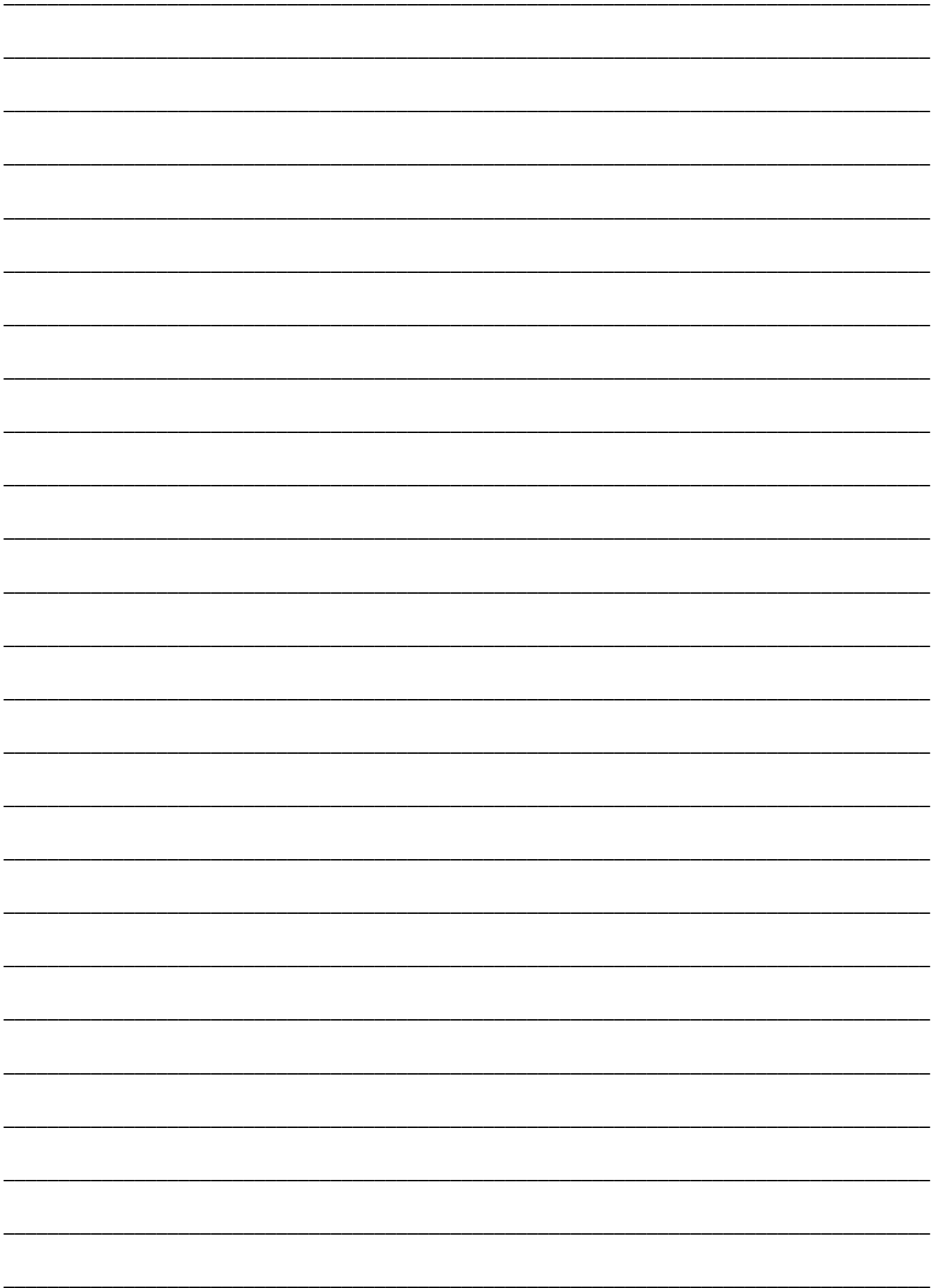
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pair #1** \_\_\_\_\_ **Theme #1** \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Character #1	Description of Character #2

**Analysis:** Explain how the relationship between the characters you have chosen reflects one of the themes from the list. Be sure to use specific examples from the story to support your analysis.

[illegible]



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pair #2** \_\_\_\_\_ **Theme #2** \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Character #1	Description of Character #2

**Analysis:** Explain how the relationship between the characters you have chosen reflects one of the themes from the list. Be sure to use specific examples from the story to support your analysis.

[illegible]

