

COURSE TITLE: Honors British Literature (grade 11)

REQUIRED TEXT: *A Man for All Seasons*

AUTHOR: Robert Bolt

GENRE: Historical Drama

SUMMARY: *A Man for All Seasons* (written in 1990) presents a fictionalized account of Sir Thomas More's refusal to sanction King Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon and the political and personal downfall that results.

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE: (DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS)

1. Take notes while reading the play—either write in the margins of the book (if it is your own copy) OR fold a piece of lined paper down the center (labeling the left side “quotation” and the right side “analysis”) and write down significant quotations and their importance.

When taking notes, consider the following questions. (Focusing your notes on these topics will help you with your first in-class timed write in September.)

- Is More a tragic hero? If yes, what is his tragic flaw?
- What is the role of the “Common Man” throughout the play?
- How are women depicted as characters? What does Bolt suggest about the role of women in society?
- Does More grow and change throughout the play, or is he a more static character? Why or why not? Support your interpretation of More as the protagonist with quotations and examples from the play.

2. You will write an in-class essay analyzing this play from a selected critical perspective as part of the first unit of the course.