

Spanish Summer Assignment

Dear La Salle Spanish Scholars,

In addition to enjoying time with family and friends this summer, you will have a unique opportunity to enrich your foreign language studies. Every Spanish student (with the exception of AP Spanish) at La Salle will read a short novel completely in Spanish. This reading will help your Spanish in several ways. The first thing you will notice is an improvement in overall reading comprehension and skills. Some vocabulary and structures may challenge you at first, but as you grow more accustomed to the characters and the story line, you will find yourself learning and understanding new words on the spot. Besides increasing your vocabulary, these novels will help strengthen what you already know. Your existing knowledge of vocabulary and grammar will naturally become stronger as you make your way through the story. By the end you will not only be able to say you read an entire novel in Spanish, but that you comprehended it and learned more Spanish.

For this assignment to be truly worthwhile, it's important that you approach it *with purpose*. With this in mind, there are several goals to think about during the reading.

1. *Focus on comprehension and clarity.* Do I understand what I'm reading? Is the image in my head of what the text says clear or fuzzy?
2. *Develop your Spanish brain.* Avoid translating the Spanish to English in your head while you read and instead allow meaning to come from the Spanish itself. You might even catch yourself thinking in Spanish!
3. *Be mindful of what you already know.* It's important to enjoy the story as a form of entertainment, but it never hurts to pause every so often and re-examine a grammatical topic from the previous year. For example, you might say to yourself "ESTAR is used here instead of SER because the author is describing a character's emotional state." Bingo!
4. *Grow your vocabulary.* When you come across an unfamiliar word, you may be able to figure out its meaning based on context. Think about these moments like mini-puzzles in which your goal is to have an "ah-ha" moment. If you're really stumped, look up its meaning on wordreference.com. If you had an "ah-ha" moment and want to confirm your genius, do not hesitate to look up the word.

To achieve these goals, we ask that you complete a series of tasks as you read the novel. See the appropriate analysis grid for more details and examples.

1. Make a list of your "ah-ha" words. These are new words you successfully understood based solely on context. Be proud of this list. It is evidence of your Spanish genius!
2. Besides your "ah-ha" words, make a list of five new verbs that you learned.
3. Provide examples from the text of grammatical themes covered during the previous year. This will help you strengthen what you already know. Follow the examples on grid that accompanies these instructions. Don't forget to vary the examples that you find.
4. Summarize each chapter in **English** in two to four sentences. We ask you to do this in English because we want you to focus on comprehending the key content of the storyline.

Overall, this reading experience is an opportunity, and the novel, tasks, and mindsets are tools to help you improve your Spanish. It might seem hard to imagine now, but your diligence with Spanish this

summer and at La Salle will give you the skills necessary to converse with Spanish speakers all over the world, some of whom you might meet during a study abroad experience in college. Keeping in mind the ultimate goal of proficiency or fluency with the language will help you accomplish your reading goals with purpose and enjoyment.

Use the analysis grid to complete your work. It is available in Word or in PDF formats. It will be collected during the first week of class and will be graded on holistically; see the rubric for more details.

The novels can be found directly on the Blaine Ray website or on Amazon.com:

- Spanish 2 and 2 Honors – *Pobre Ana* by Blaine Ray
 - o <http://tprsbooks.org/products/spanish/level-1-spanish/level-1-novels/pobre-ana/>
 - o https://www.amazon.com/Pobre-Ana-Totalmente-Espanol-Spanish/dp/092972447X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1498752684&sr=1-1&keywords=pobre+ana
- Spanish 3 and 3 Honors – *Mi Propio Auto* by Lisa Ray Turner and Blaine Ray
 - o <http://tprsbooks.org/products/spanish/spanish-level-2/spanish-2-novels/mi-propio-auto/>
 - o http://www.amazon.com/Propio-novela-totalmente-espanol-Spanish/dp/0929724747/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1463589444&sr=1-1&keywords=mi+propio+auto
- Spanish 4 and 4 Honors – *Los Ojos de Carmen* by Verónica Moscoso
 - o <http://tprsbooks.org/products/spanish/level-3-spanish/spanish-3-novels/los-ojos-de-carmen/>
 - o http://www.amazon.com/ojos-Carmen-Spanish-Veronica-Moscoso/dp/0929724925/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1463590954&sr=1-1&keywords=los+ojos+de+carmen

Have a safe, happy, and fun summer! *¡Qué les vaya muy bien este verano! ¡Nos vemos en septiembre!*

The Teachers of Spanish in the World Languages Department