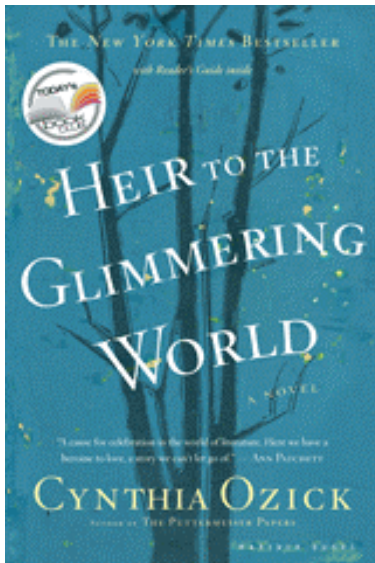


# Common Reading Programs

A Simulated Experience Using  
*Heir to the Glimmering World*  
by Cynthia Ozick



Shani Fisher, Sponsoring Editor &  
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Houghton Mifflin Student Success Programs



# Sharing and Comparing

- Select one person in your group to read the text passage aloud
- Discuss the significance of this passage to the plot of *Heir to the Glimmering World*
- Discuss how a first-year student may make a connection between this passage and their experiences in college.



# What is a Common/Summer Reading?

- Book chosen for all entering students
- Faculty, staff and extended community participate
- Series of events that promote a common intellectual experience



# Why should we have a Common/Summer Reading program?

- Establishes a culture of readers
- Orients new students to critical thinking and college level writing
- Provides a springboard for faculty-student conversation
- Establishes academic expectations before arrival
- Connects a larger mission



# Reading programs create synergies

Two key theoretical principles of student retention and learning happen

- Active involvement (Astin 1985): “The greater the student’s involvement in college, the greater the learning and development.”
- Social integration (Tinto 1975, 1993): Involvement with one’s peers and with the faculty, both inside and outside the classroom, is itself positively related to the quality of student effort and in turn to both learning and persistence.”  
- Tinto





# Steps in the process

- 1. Book selection**
- 2. Public Relations and Planning**
- 3. Activities and events**
- 4. Assessment**



# Step 1: Book selection

- Criteria for choosing a book
- Places to find books
- Who sets the criteria?
- Who funds the program?
- Process and timelines

## Gallaudet University

- Book reinforces university goal or initiative
- Academic affairs planning committee and university credo
  - Strengthen, nurture, and infuse academic culture into all aspects of Gallaudet community
  - Every person should be treated with civility...our community is strengthened by the diversity of its members

# Step 2: Public Relations and Planning

- Read and narrow choices
- Contact agents and colleagues (author availability and costs)
- Begin campus-wide advertising to engage faculty/staff
- Send letter and reading questions to newly admitted students
- Send letter and reading questions to newly admitted students
- Update your web site
- Stock your bookstore
- Plan coming semester events

# Step 3: Activities and Events

## Gallaudet University

- New Student Orientation and Convocation
- Author visit

- Semester events prior to author visit
  - Panel discussions
  - Essay contest (to have lunch with author)
  - Movie night
  - Dorm programs
  - Reading recognition buttons



# Bringing the Author to Campus

- Check author/publisher web sites
- View talk show clips
- Movie tie-ins
- Conference call

# Step 4: Assessment

- **What is assessment?**
  - “Any effort to gather, analyze or interpret evidence to describe effectiveness” (Upcraft & Schuh 1996)
- **Why assess?**
  - Justify continuation of program and expense
  - Link goals to outcomes that measure student success

# Helping Students Succeed

- Making connections between successful strategies of first year students and common reading programs
- Building reading skills
- Building vocabulary skills
- Building writing and reflection skills



# Strategies for Reading Success

- **Get connected!** Interact with your readings by asking questions, writing comments, and underlining key words.
- **Make note of any word you don't understand.** Use a dictionary to help you find the meaning of words. Create word lists using a notebook or index cards to practice words that are unfamiliar to you.
- **Third, use a strategy like the SQ3R to become actively involved in your reading and fine tune your critical thinking skills.** The SQ3R technique is simply a before, during and after reading approach.

# Strategies for Reading Success

## **SQ3R**

- **SURVEY** – Quickly look over the material you are supposed to read. What will this reading be about?
- **QUESTION** – Actively question and search for answers as you read. Keep your mind active. Don't wander.
- **READ** – Find the answers to your questions.
- **RECITE** – Answer your questions in your head or out loud.
- **REVIEW** – When you are finished summarize the reading.

# Getting to the root of vocabulary

The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter—it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning. --Mark Twain



# Getting to the root of vocabulary

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**a·man·u·en·sis** ( ə-măn'yōō-ən'sīs)

*pl.* **a·man·u·en·ses** (-sēz)

In context...

(Dr. Tandori asks,) "...May I assume that this young person is your daughter?"

"She is not, Mitwisher bit off. "She is my amanuensis." I had never before heard him use this odd word; it was briny with anger and, I thought, mockery. I was nothing so elevated as an amanuensis; it had lately become my morning's task to make up Mitwisher's bed.

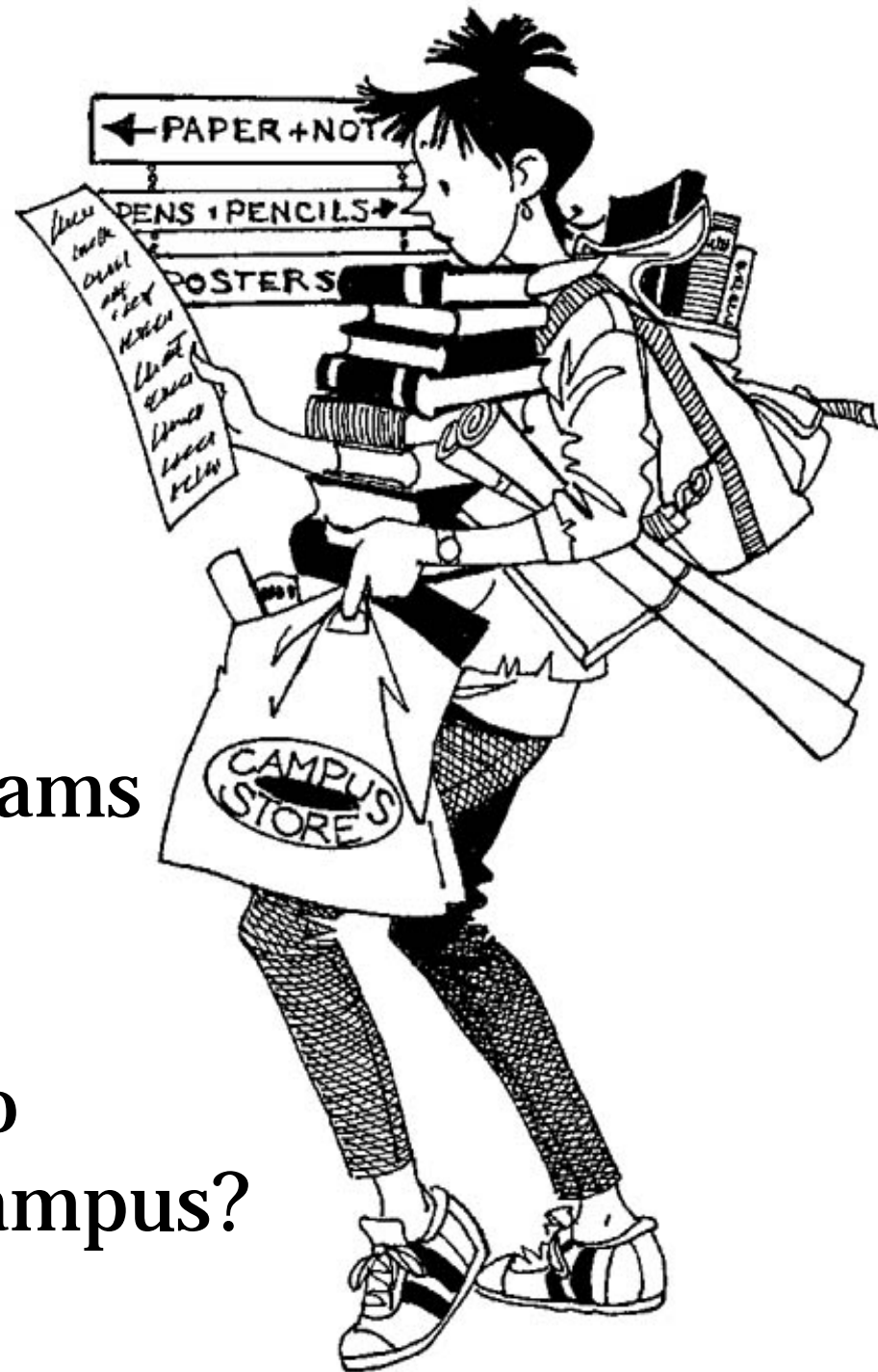


# Strategies for Reflection

- Follow the criteria stated when responding to writing assignments. Make sure you understand the purpose! A particular assignment may ask you to describe, argue, define, critique, compare, contrast or persuade. Make sure you know the definitions of these key works! Keep in mind this purpose, and make sure your writing answers the question that has been posed to you.
- Support your writing to make sure that you are approaching your argument from all sides and basing your writing on sound reasoning supported by experience and credible sources.

Now it is  
your turn to  
reflect.

- What did I learn about Common Reading Programs that I didn't know about before?
- What steps will I take to implement this on my campus?



The habit of reading is the only one I know in which there is no alloy. It lasts when all other pleasures fade. It will be present to you when the energies of your body have fallen away from you. It will make your hours pleasant to you as long as you live.

--Anthony Trollope

