I. You shall write two papers, one on Dream of the Red Chamber and the other, on Chushingura; however, your second paper may be a comparison of the two.

II. Keep the following in mind that your papers are NOT book summaries, or a set of reading notes, or the mere accumulation of facts, or the re-telling of certain episodes. Rather, they represent your understanding of what the book says, and your reflection on selected themes in the book, and your reaction to each of the book in a critical, analytic way.

III. Thus, you have to identify a central theme or a main argument, which will then be your focus of discussion or analysis throughout each of the papers. Examples of central theme:

- Pao-yu's intellectual growth demonstrates the Buddhist teaching of abandonment
- The Matriarch's position in the Chia family undermines patriarchal authority
- Bannai is the model of loyalty
- Gihei best examples the samurai spirit

IV. Your central theme or main argument must then be supported by tightly-organized, coherently presented, and well-integrated points which will indicate your grasp of the facts and your understanding of their significance.

V. Your conclusion should be a strong, forceful re-statement of your main theme, making reference to the salient points you have made in the body of your paper.

VI. You need not consult outside reference works, if you do not want to. Simply indicate the relevant pages in making your points. On the other hand, if you do feel motivated to bolster your argument with authoritative reference sources, please indicate them with footnotes.

VII. Your papers will be graded for both content and style. In other words, poor and careless writing replete with grammatical mistakes and wrong word usage will result in a lower grade. Make sure that you are aware of the differences between or among the following sets of words:

- its/it's; they're/their/there; to/too/two;
- were/we're; who's/whose; your/you're
- past/passed; principle/principal; then/than
- accept/except; cite/site/sight; affect/effect

- lead/led