



Cedar Grove  
School District

**Cedar Grove High School  
English Department**

**2019**

**Summer Reading**

for

**Honors and AP Classes**



**Please Note: The English Department 2019 Summer Reading Assignments are only for students taking Honors or Advanced Placement classes.**

Without addressing what happens to students educationally over the course of the summer, it is impossible to close the academic achievement gap. No matter how much high-quality learning takes place over the school year, many children will still fall behind during the summer unless they are given the attention and resources that they will need to continue learning during these pivotal months.

As we prepare our students for the skills that they will need to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it is imperative that we provide activities/opportunities that keep students engaged while helping them to build their literacy skill set. Having access to books and other educational resources during the summer months reinforces good learning habits and is critical to improving and/or maintaining the student's academic success. Those who lack the opportunity to read, write, think and participate in book discussions, will continue to fall behind every summer; consequently, making the achievement gap too great to close.

Summer reading could also improve:

- Reading and Writing Proficiencies
- Building of Vocabulary skills
- Development of Grammar
- Enjoyment of Reading

By providing a clear and engaging summer reading expectation, the Cedar Grove High School English Department hopes to promote a meaningful literacy-rich experience for all students. Our aim is to keep students connected to reading habits and comprehension skills that were practiced throughout the school year. Ultimately, our goal is to inspire the development of life-long readers.

The following list encompasses the high school's summer reading selections and written assignments which serve as a guide for strategic reading. For each book assigned to your grade level, you will have to respond to specific questions and prompts. Additionally, you will begin the year with a unit based on the novel(s). This unit may include quizzes, tests, written assignments, oral presentations, and/or other projects. Please be prepared for a productive start to the new school year.

Students are responsible for obtaining copies of the assigned book(s). The Cedar Grove Public Library has been apprised of our selections and will make available copies of each title. We have also notified Barnes and Noble in Woodland Park, so our titles will be available there as well.

Have a Great Summer!

*The Cedar Grove High School English Department*

# English I Honors

If you have questions regarding this assignment, please email Mrs. Gaviria at [gaviria.charlotte@cgschools.org](mailto:gaviria.charlotte@cgschools.org)

**Book Selection:** You must read **both** of the works listed below.

- *The Color of Water* by James McBride (nonfiction)
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith (fiction)

**Then complete the following assignment for each work:**

**Theme:** A theme is a recurring idea. It is an idea that comes up constantly when reading fiction or nonfiction. Some examples of themes include loneliness, friendship, love, etc.

Once you have finished reading *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and *The Color of Water*, identify a common theme that is present in both pieces. Write a 5-paragraph essay comparing how the theme is present in both pieces. Make sure to cite specific examples from the texts to support your response. Remember that each body paragraph should discuss **BOTH** pieces and how the theme is present.

## Things to keep in mind:

- Essay must be in Times New Roman (12 Font)
- 1" margins
- Your essay must include an MLA Header, title, and last name/page number.
- Since this is a five paragraph essay, each **body paragraph** should contain a supporting detail (one of your examples), with a **quote or quotes to prove/support** your argument.
- Make sure to properly cite all your quotes and paraphrases (using MLA guidelines)
- Your essay must be in 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Do not use the following pronouns (I, me, my, us, we, our, ours, you, your, etc.).

This assignment is worth 50 points and will be due on the first day of school. If you have any questions, please email me a [gaviria.charlotte@cgschools.org](mailto:gaviria.charlotte@cgschools.org). Thank you and good luck!

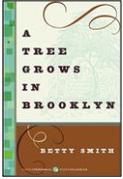
## English I Honors- Book Synopsis

### ***The Color of Water* (1995) by James McBride**



While growing up, James McBride never knew where his mother had come from. When he asked her if she was white, she simply replied that she was "light-skinned", triggering a long-standing confusion about his own racial identity. As an adult, McBride offers the reader his story by alternating between his mother's voice and his own

### ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (1943) by Betty Smith**



Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness -- in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

# English II Honors

Grade 10

If you have questions regarding this assignment, please email Mr. DeStefano at [destefano.jimi@cgschools.org](mailto:destefano.jimi@cgschools.org)

Please read the following:

- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

Assignment for *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne:

- Create a plot outline (NOT a summary) of this novel, including:
  - Tracing the rising action, climax, and denouement of the novel
  - Analyzing the significance of the setting of the novel and why the time, especially, is important
  - Determining the external and internal conflicts in *The Scarlet Letter* that form the main plot of the novel

Assignment for *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway

- Create a plot outline (NOT a summary) of this novel, including:
  - Tracing the rising action, climax, and denouement of the novel
  - Explaining why the time **AND** place are important to the overall plot of the novel
  - Identifying at least three different themes of this novel

Assignment for *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

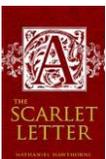
Each question must be answered in paragraph form.

- Why is Fantasy/Illusion so important to Blanche?
- How does the play illustrate the reluctance or inability of people to accept the truth?
- Who is the most admirable character in the play? You must use information, including quotes, from the play to support this answer.
- Music is quite symbolic in this play. The play has many stage directions referring to music. What music and songs are present in the first three scenes? How does the music relate to the characters?
- What does light, especially the paper lantern, represent in this play? Why is the paper lantern important to Blanche?

**All assignments must be typed. These assignments will be graded!**

## English II Honors - Book Synopsis

*The Scarlet Letter* (1850) by Nathaniel Hawthorne



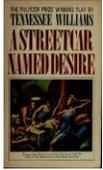
This powerful gothic drama, set in Puritan Boston, tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an adulterous affair with an unnamed man. Branded with a scarlet A, and isolated in a strict conformist community intent on pushing her to the fringes of this wild and emerging country, Hester struggles to forge a new, dignified existence with her daughter. Then a mysterious individual arrives, intent on unmasking her companion.

### ***A Farewell to Arms* (1929) by Ernest Hemingway**



The unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Set against the looming horrors of the battlefield—worn, demoralized men marching in the rain during the German attack on Caporetto; the profound struggle between loyalty and desertion—this gripping, semiautobiographical work captures the harsh realities of war and the pain of lovers caught in its inexorable sweep.

### ***A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947) by Tennessee Williams**



*Streetcar Named Desire* shows a turbulent confrontation between traditional values in the American South - an old-world graciousness and beauty running decoratively to seed - set against the rough-edged, aggressive materialism of the new world. Through the vividly characterized figures of Southern belle Blanche Dubois, seeking refuge from physical ugliness in decayed gentility, and her brutal brother-in-law Stanley Kowalski, Tennessee Williams dramatizes his sense of the South's past as still active and often destructive in modern America.

# AP English Language and Composition

All questions regarding this assignment, should be directed to Mrs. Kay at [kay.stacy@cgschools.org](mailto:kay.stacy@cgschools.org)

## **Part I: Listen to, analyze, and evaluate three episodes of *This American Life*.**

- 1 Read the pdf on ethos, pathos, and logos, elements used for rhetorical appeal and persuasion.
- 2 While listening to an episode, identify an example of an element (ethos, logos, and pathos). Describe the example and explain why it is effective. Then discuss how the episode relies on rhetorical modes (one to two paragraphs).
- 3 Write a brief summary (one to two full paragraphs) explaining the purpose of the episode. Is it persuasive, informative or both? Who is the podcast appealing to? What did you learn or how did you connect to the episode?

The episodes are available for free on the radio show and podcast website. Summaries, photos, and links are available, as well. Visit the links below to determine which episodes are of interest to you.

Choose **three**:

- “Switched at Birth” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/360/switched-at-birth>
- “Babysitting” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/175/babysitting>
- “I’m on TV?” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/675/im-on-tv>
- “Tell me I’m Fat” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/589/tell-me-im-fat>
- “No Fair” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/672/no-fair>
- “The Long Fuse” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/668/the-long-fuse>
- “Dr. Gilmer and Mr. Hyde” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/492/dr-gilmer-and-mr-hyde>
- “Three Miles” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/550/three-miles>
- “The Ghost of Bobby Dunbar” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/352/the-ghost-of-bobby-dunbar>

Read segments on ethos, pathos, and logos from Chapter 1 in *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric*, 2nd edition. (pages 17 to 21 in text). A pdf copy is available on google classroom and via the below link.

<https://esumsnh.net/ourpages/auto/2018/8/28/45105103/The%20Language%20of%20Composition.pdf>

You can also read this brief tutorial from the Purdue Online Writing Lab

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/academic\\_writing/establishing\\_arguments/rhetorical\\_strategies.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/establishing_arguments/rhetorical_strategies.html)

## **Part II: Please chose ONE of the following memoirs and keep a double sided journal to explore themes.**

- *The Diary of A Young Girl* by Anne Frank (the actual diary, not the play)
- *Autobiography of A Face* by Lucy Grealy
- *Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam
- *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah \*Contains some violence and domestic abuse
- *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed
- *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor
- *Angela’s Ashes*, by Frank McCourt \*Contains some sexual situations
- *Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War*, by Helen Thorpe \*Contains some war related violence and adult situations
- *This Boy’s Life*, by Tobias Wolff \*Contains some violence and domestic abuse

Except for *This Boy's Life*, all books can be found at the Cedar Grove Public Library or ordered via PALS Plus Consortium Online Library Catalog. All books can be ordered through Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

**Activity:**

**Theme:** A theme is a recurring idea found in literature, whether the text is fiction or nonfiction. Themes found in memoirs include life changes, adjusting to a new life, compassion, loss, hope, adversity, survival, being different, and discrimination.

**Directions:** You will keep a double-entry journal to reflect on the themes present in the memoir you chose to read. On the left side, you will record ten (10) quotes that illustrate your chosen themes, and on the right side, you will explain how the quotes illustrate the themes (minimum 60 words per entry). You can write about several themes throughout the activity. If you have a quote within a quote – something that might occur if you include dialogue -- use ‘these’ for the inside quotes. Times New Roman 12.

**Example Double-Entry Journal**

Quote (Must be cited)	Analysis
<p>“She closed her eyes, tried to call to mind the sounds of a far tranquil ocean, the lapping of waves. She said, ‘I’ll find him.’ ‘Girl, I been lookin’ and . . . ‘I’ll find him.’” (Woodrell, 15)</p>	<p>Self-reliance: When the reader meets Ree, she has already dropped out of school to take care of her young brothers and sick mother, who cannot work. After Deputy Baskin tells Ree that Jessup, her father, needs to appear in court so they can keep their house, she realizes she cannot count on anybody else to find him. The deputy informs Ree his own search for Jessup has been fruitless. Ree, however, is determined to keep her house and her family together. She even interrupts the deputy to let him know she will succeed where he has not.</p>
<p>“In Ree’s heart there was room for more. Any evening spent with Gail was like one of the yearning stories from her sleep was happening awake. Sharing the small simple parts of life with someone who stood tall in her feelings.” (Woodrell, 100)</p>	<p>Friendship: The tight friendship between Gail and Ree is established earlier in the novel. Ree is somewhat of a loner, and her only friend, for she spends most of her time taking care of her family, is Gail. Ree, strong and self-sufficient, sees Gail as being like herself. The narrator does not delve much into Ree’s feelings, for they are usually revealed through her dialogue and behavior; so when the reader is directly told about Ree’s feelings for her best friend, Gayle, the reader understands the importance of this relationship. Ree does not have much joy in her life, but being with Gayle is a pleasure.</p>

# AP English Language and Composition - Book Synopsis

## ***The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank**



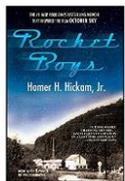
Among the most powerful accounts of the Nazi occupation, "The Diary of Anne Frank" chronicles the life of Anne Frank, a thirteen-year old girl fleeing her home in Amsterdam to go into hiding. Anne reveals the relationships between eight people living under miserable conditions: facing hunger, threat of discovery and the worst horrors the modern world had seen. Anne Frank's account offers a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman who turns thoughtful and learns of the many terrors of the world.

## ***Autobiography of A Face* by Lucy Grealy**



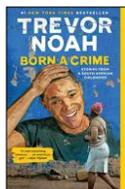
This powerful memoir is about the premium we put on beauty and on a woman's face in particular. It took Lucy Grealy twenty years of living with a distorted self-image and more than thirty reconstructive procedures before she could come to terms with her appearance after childhood cancer and surgery that left her jaw disfigured. As a young girl, she absorbed the searing pain of peer rejection and the paralyzing fear of never being loved.

## ***Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam**



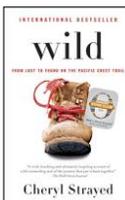
One of the most beloved bestsellers in recent years, *Rocket Boys* is a uniquely American memoir. A powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the end of the 1950s, it is the story of a mother's love and a father's fears, of growing up and getting out. With the grace of a natural storyteller, Homer Hickam looks back after a distinguished NASA career to tell his own true story of growing up in a dying coal town and of how, against the odds, he made his dreams of launching rockets into outer space come true.

## ***Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah \*Contains some violence and domestic abuse**



Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

## ***Wild* by Cheryl Strayed**



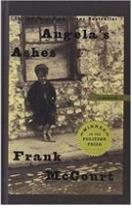
At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone.

## ***My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor**



The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself

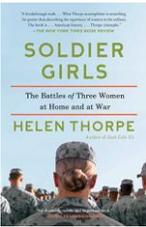
**Angela's Ashes** by Frank McCourt \*Contains some sexual situations



“When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood.”

So begins the luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank’s mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank’s father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy—exasperating, irresponsible, and beguiling—does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story. Frank lives for his father’s tales of Cuchulain, who saved Ireland, and of the Angel on the Seventh Step, who brings his mother babies.

**Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War** by Helen Thorpe \*Contains some war related violence and adult situations



Helen Thorpe follows the lives of three women over twelve years on their paths to the military, overseas to combat, and back home...and then overseas again for two of them. These women, who are quite different in every way, become friends, and we watch their interaction and also what happens when they are separated. We see them work extremely hard, deal with the attentions of men on base and in war zones, and struggle to stay connected to their families back home. We see some of them drink too much, have affairs, and react to the deaths of fellow soldiers. And we see what happens to one of them when the truck she is driving hits an explosive in the road, blowing it up. She survives, but her life may never be the same again.

**This Boy's Life** by Tobias Wolff \*Contains some violence and domestic abuse



This unforgettable memoir, by one of our most gifted writers, introduces us to the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on the move, yet they develop an extraordinarily close, almost telepathic relationship. As Toby fights for identity and self-respect against the unrelenting hostility of a new stepfather, his experiences are at once poignant and comical, and Wolff does a masterful job of re-creating the frustrations and cruelties of adolescence. His various schemes - running away to Alaska, forging checks, and stealing cars - lead eventually to an act of outrageous self-invention that releases him into a new world of possibility.

# English III Honors

If you have questions regarding this assignment, please email Ms. Amador at [amador.meagan@cgschools.org](mailto:amador.meagan@cgschools.org)

***Please read the following books in the given order:***

- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

**ALL** work is to be done independently. If you choose to work in study groups to discuss the works please be sure to use your own words and thoughts when responding in writing. *Group work will not be accepted.*

Also, please note that these pieces are to be read in a **particular order** beginning with *Jane Eyre* and ending with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

## Written Assignments:

Please note the following:

- Your pre-reading and active reading exercises will be collected on the first day of school. These responses will be graded for originality, clarity, thoroughness, and mechanics.
- If you have any questions feel free to email me: [amador.meagan@cgschools.org](mailto:amador.meagan@cgschools.org)

## Jane Eyre: Assignments

1. **Pre-Reading (15 points):** In journal format, write a reaction to one of the following statements/quotes. **This will be graded for originality, clarity, thoroughness, and mechanics. You MAY use first person perspective in your responses.**
  - a. You can overcome your past no matter how bad it is.
  - b. “...it is madness in all women to let a secret love kindle within them, which, if unreturned and unknown, must devour the life that feeds it; and, if discovered and responded to, must lead, ignis-fatuus-like, into miry wilds whence there is no extrication.” -Charlotte Bronte
  - c. Loving and respecting oneself is the key to happiness and independence.
  - d. “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” -Proverb
  - e. “You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” -A.A. Milne
  - f. The treatment of a human is not subject to their gender.
2. **Active Reading (30 points):** While you are reading *Jane Eyre*, keep a literary log in your composition notebooks in note-taking format. All questions will be graded for completeness, **questions A, C, D, and F will be graded for originality, thoroughness, clarity, and mechanics.**
  - a. **CHARACTER:** Explain why you admire/dislike a character from the novel. Include at least two passage references that led you to this view.
  - b. **THEMES:** Address two themes presented in the novel. Discuss impact on plot and character. Include a passage that demonstrates each theme’s presence and explain.

- c. **GENRE:** Provide a definition of a “gothic novel.” Address at least two passages that qualify *Jane Eyre* as a **gothic novel**.
- d. **SETTING:** How do each of the **5** different houses or schools parallel a certain stage of Jane’s life?
- e. **TECHNIQUES:** Select specific techniques (i.e. figurative language, symbols, irony, style, etc.) utilized by Bronte which you find significant.
- f. Select **two** passages of substance which impressed you emotionally and explain.

## **Wide Sargasso Sea:** Assignments

1. **Active Reading (60 points):** As you read *Wide Sargasso Sea*, complete the following Double-Entry Journal assignment to help you compare Rhys’ novel with Bronte’s. On my HomeworkNow.com page, you will find a folder titled, “Summer Reading;” here you will have the option to use a template to help you format and complete the assignment appropriately. **This will be graded for originality, clarity, thoroughness, and mechanics.**
  - a. The **left side** of your table must contain your selected quotes. You must choose **ten (10)** quotes from **throughout the entire novel** to respond to. . **Each properly cited quote is worth 2 points.**
    - i. Each quote must be cited using MLA format.
    - ii. Longer quotes may be shortened using an ellipsis. For example: “But I looked...quite soon now” (Rhys 121).
  - b. The **right side** of your table must comment on each of the quotes that you have selected. A full-credit (4 points) response will be a minimum of 4 sentences. You may respond to any of the following questions, however your responses must be **VARIED**. **You may not use the same prompt listed more than two times.**
    - i. How did you first react emotionally upon reading this section?
    - ii. Do you note any type of literary device(s) within this quote?
    - iii. Does this passage remind you of any other works that you have read/films that you have seen?
    - iv. Can you analyze the meaning behind this passage?
    - v. Does this selection show progress of a particular character?
    - vi. Were more questions raised as a result of this event?
    - vii. Does the syntax of the quote make it difficult to follow?
    - viii. Does this quote help you characterize anyone in the novel?

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time:** The assignment for this novel will be completed in class.

# English III Honors - Book Synopsis

## ***Jane Eyre* (1834) by Charlotte Brontë**



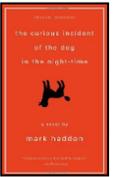
*Jane Eyre*, the story of a young girl and her passage into adulthood, was an immediate commercial success at the time of its original publication in 1847. Its representation of the underside of domestic life and the hypocrisy behind religious enthusiasm drew both praise and bitter criticism, while Charlotte Brontë's striking expose of poor living conditions for children in charity schools as well as her poignant portrayal of the limitations faced by women who worked as governesses sparked great controversy and social debate. *Jane Eyre*, Brontë's best-known novel, remains an extraordinary coming-of-age narrative, and one of the great classics of literature.

## ***Wide Sargasso Sea* (1992) by Jean Rhys**



Born into the oppressive, colonialist society of 1930s Jamaica, white Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway meets a young Englishman who is drawn to her innocent beauty and sensuality. After their marriage, however, disturbing rumors begin to circulate which poison her husband against her. Caught between his demands and her own precarious sense of belonging, Antoinette is inexorably driven towards madness, and her husband into the arms of another novel's heroine. This classic study of betrayal, a seminal work of postcolonial literature, is Jean Rhys's brief, beautiful masterpiece.

## ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (2004) by Mark Haddon**



Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

## **Advanced Placement English**

If you have questions regarding this assignment, please email Ms. Amador at [amador.meagan@cgschools.org](mailto:amador.meagan@cgschools.org)

### ***Novels***

- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
- *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse

### ***Drama***

- *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare

### **Literary Log**

Please develop the following format and have it ready, in brief and concise written form as we begin consideration of each work of literature in this course.

1. What ideas did the work elicit?
2. Your emotional and intellectual reactions to the work. Why?
3. Mention any particular technique(s) utilized by the author which you especially noted, admired, and/or disliked.
4. Designate (page, chapter, surrounding action) one or more passages which especially impressed you. Briefly, discuss why you were impressed.
5. Did the work remind you of any other reading you have done? Which? Why?

### **Portfolio**

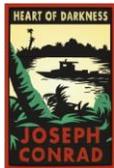
Use at least 2 works from summer reading and other selections can be from previous years. Must be of literary merit. No bestsellers.

**Directions:** Use a different work for the first 3 sections.

1. Relate the meaning of the story to your own experiences, values, or tastes by using specifics from the novel or play.
2. Choose a character from a novel or play and why you admire/dislike him or her.
3. Looking at a book review format (NY TIMES), choose one novel or play and write a review for the public. Be creative.
4. Write a short paper that clarifies your taste in literature which shows what you like or dislike.

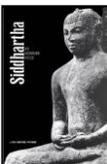
# AP English– Book Synopsis

*Heart of Darkness* (1902) by Joseph Conrad



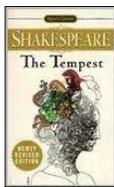
The tale concerns the journey of the Marlow up the Congo River on behalf of a Belgian trading company. Far upriver, he encounters the mysterious Kurtz, an ivory trader who exercises an almost godlike sway over the inhabitants of the region. Both repelled and fascinated by the man, Marlow is brought face to face with the corruption and despair that Conrad saw at the heart of human existence.

*Siddhartha* (1922) by Herman Hesse



Set in ancient India, Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha* follows the spiritual journey of a young man who leaves his family home and meets the Buddha. An exploration of both Buddhist philosophy and individual morality, *Siddhartha* charts a quest from ascetic simplicity to worldly luxury and back again. While he draws on the Buddha's teachings, Siddhartha ultimately forges his own path, creating a personal philosophy that has fascinated readers for nearly a century. *Siddhartha* is considered one of the most influential works written by Hesse, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, and a classic of 20th century

*The Tempest* by William Shakespeare



Prospero, wise Duke of Milan, has been deposed by Antonio, his wicked brother, and exiled with his daughter Miranda to a mysterious island. But Prospero possesses supernatural powers. Aided by the spirit Ariel, Prospero uses his magical art to bring his enemies under his control.

# Humanities Honors English IV

Please read of the following text:

- ***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coelho

Please complete the following assignment:

## Part One: Literary Analysis Essay

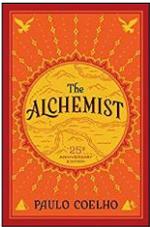
**Directions:** Write a well-constructed essay of five pages analyzing how Coelho develops two themes in the text.

## Part Two: Personal Reflection

**Directions:** Select three quotes from the story that impacted you in some way. Write a paragraph explaining your thoughts and feelings surrounding each quotation. (Three paragraphs total).

## Book Synopsis

***The Alchemist* (1993)** by Paulo Coelho



Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery, Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.