

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE and AP US HISTORY SUMMER READING 2009

Congratulations on choosing to be part of an exciting, rigorous academic experience for your sophomore year. American literature and history, as you know, are a year-long courses that will fulfill your graduation requirements in U. S. History B/C/D, English 10 A/B, and Speech Dynamics.

Several students have asked what to expect from Honors American Literature and AP US History. We typically complete 4-5 units each trimester. Each unit will require you to read 1-6 chapters of a college-level history text along with a novel or play, plus a variety of essays, poetry and/or short stories. Your progress in each unit will be assessed by an objective test, an essay test, and a project, along with a writing experience such as an essay or journal. We expect our students to participate actively in small and large group discussions and to give speeches in front of the class. Students from the past ten years have agreed that, although the course is challenging and demanding, they have enjoyed the material, the interdisciplinary approach, the free exchange of ideas and the variety of activities appealing to different interests and learning styles.

American History students will be enrolled in an Advanced Placement (A. P.) course. That means the course will help prepare students to take the A. P. U. S. History exam in May. Successful scores on this exam may earn college credit, waiver of certain college requirements, placement in college honors programs, etc. We encourage students who do well in class to take this exam. Colleges view A. P. courses as equivalent to a freshman course in college, to give you an idea of the caliber of work we will be expecting from you.

For American Literature, please choose a book or two from the list below to read over the summer months. Please track your responses/reflections in your journal in preparation for fall. You may discuss the characters, the plot, questions that may arise as you read, and what you think the author's message may be.

Finally, consider purchasing your own copies of the books that we read in class next year so that you can write or highlight in them. They are available at most local bookstores, or you may also check them out of any local library.

We are looking forward to meeting you and working with you! Have a great summer!

Reinartz, Kirkham, and Erickson

Here are the books selections in no particular order:

- *Sister Carrie*
- *Sophie's Choice*
- *Kite Runner*
- *Reservation Blues*
- *Main Street*
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- *USA Trilogy*
- *Native Sun*
- *The Jungle*
- *Bluest Eye*
- *Brave New World*
- *All the King's Men*

Turn over for the grammar assignment.

Honors American Literature

Summer 2009 Grammar

Name:

Study the grammar concepts below using this web site: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/> Then check the appropriate boxes when you feel you have accomplished the stated goal. For each category, there are some helpful quizzes that will provide practice and help you understand each concept. When you return to school next fall, we will spend time reviewing and then quizzing on these concepts. Prepare yourselves!

Grammar Concept	I studied this concept.	I understand this concept.	I am ready for the quiz in fall.
FANBOYS			
Fragments			
Clauses			
Combining sentences			
Commas			
Complex sentences			
Compound-complex sentences			
Dependent clauses			
Independent clauses			
Literature (writing about)			
Reviews (literary)			
Semi-colons			
Sentences (types)			