

Summer Reading Assignment – American Literature: 2010

Assigned Novels:

Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Passing by Nella Larsen

Welcome to American Literature! As you know, an important component of the English program is the Summer Reading assignment. The three main goals of this assignment are to keep you active in reading, broaden your horizons, and challenge your thinking skills.

The Summer Reading Assignment is a graded assignment. Although we will discuss the readings in class, your knowledge of each work's content will be discerned in three ways: a visual assignment with an accompanying written assignment (below), an in-class essay given the first week of school, and an exam administered. Please note: discussion on each novel will take place after the exam, not before. The written and visual assignment is due the day of the exam.

I. Exam: The summer reading exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 17th.**

II. Essay: In-Class Essay:

- You will be writing a literary analysis paper in which you discuss the theme of one of the above works. This is a formal response, and as such should include an introduction with a thesis statement that states the purpose of your scene in relation to the entire novel. Supporting paragraphs should reinforce your thesis.
- As you read all of the novels, think about what messages each author is trying to convey. One way to figure out the message is to consider what new awareness you had when you finished the novel. Remember, authors write for a purpose. They get a specific message across. Our job as literary analyzers is to determine what the message is.
- At the in-class essay, you may use your books, any notes, and the introduction that we will be focusing on during our class period on Wednesday, August 18.
- The in-class essay is scheduled for **Thursday, August 19.**

III. Poster Project:

- Choose one of the above novels to be the subject of a poster.
- Decide on a main theme / topic from one of the above works. Your poster will reflect this message.
- Design a poster (size 12 x 18") that depicts an important event / scene (or events / scenes) that reflects your chosen theme / topic in the novel. **Use color! Illustrations should be visible from a distance.** (Please do NOT use foam core or super-thick poster board.)
- Place the title of the work and the author's name clearly and legibly on the front of the poster so that it can be seen from a distance.
- Select a passage that supports the event that you have chosen to illustrate. Copy the entire quote (neatly and accurately) onto the front of your poster (it must be visible from a distance). Please edit your work! Spelling and neatness count!
- Posters are due on **Tuesday, August 17, the same day of the exam.**