

## Modern and Contemporary Literature Summer Reading Assignment: 2010 - 2011

### Assigned Works:

- *Fences*, August Wilson
- *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien

*The above novel and play may be purchased at The Novel Experience in SLO; they give a 10% discount to MCP students.*

### Welcome to the wonderful world of Modern and Contemporary Literature.

I am truly looking forward to next year. An important component of the English program is the Summer Reading assignment. The Summer Reading Assignment is a graded assignment; your knowledge of each work's content will be discerned in **three** ways: a written assignment, a visual depiction, and an exam administered during the first week of school. **Please note: Discussion on each novel will take place after the exam, not before.**

**I. Essay:** In addition to reading the above novels, you will be writing a well-developed essay on one of the above two works. The reason why it will be so well developed is because you and I will be fully engaged – together – in the process. This essay assignment consists of **three** components: introduction with thesis statement, outline, and final essay. **You will be emailing me the intro component over the summer.** E-mail me at my **home email address: [johamm@charter.net](mailto:johamm@charter.net)**. Copy your email to [jhamm@missionprep.org](mailto:jhamm@missionprep.org).

#### **Prompt:**

Decide on a main theme / topic from one of the above works. Your essay will be a literary analysis in which you discuss the ways in which the author employs at least **2** rhetorical strategies that enhance your chosen topic. (You are identifying and analyzing what message the author is trying to get across and what rhetorical devices he or she is using to get that message across.)

### **This written assignment consists of 3 components:**

1. **Introduction (Into and Thesis statement):**
  - A. Your introduction should begin with an "into" that prepares your reader's brain for the topic that will be discussed in your essay. This "into" should be followed by a thesis statement that clearly states what you will be proving / discussing in your essay.
  - B. **E-mail your introduction**, complete with an **into and thesis statement** to me by **Friday, July 23 ([johamm@charter.net](mailto:johamm@charter.net))**.
  - C. **If approved, you are ready for #2; if denied, you must resubmit (I will let you know).**
2. **Outline:** an outline of your essay is due during the first full week of school, **Wednesday, August 18.**
3. **Essay:** In-class essay to be written during the first full week of classes, **Thurs, August 19.**

**\*In a nutshell:** you will be e-mailing me **1** item. **I will either approve or not approve that item when you send it.** If approved, you will be ready for the next step. If not approved, **you must resubmit. All dates are firm! Your grades on your summer reading assignment comprise the majority of your first marking period grade.**

**II. Exam:** The Summer Reading exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 17.**

### **III. Poster:**

- Design a poster (no larger than 12 x 18") that depicts one of the main themes / topics of the other work than the one on which your essay focuses.
- Select a passage that supports the topic that you have chosen to illustrate. Copy the entire **meaningful** quote onto the front of your poster (**it must be visible from a distance**).
- The title and author must be visible as well.
- Posters are due to class on **Tuesday, August 17**, the day of the exam.