

# Modern and Contemporary Literature Summer Reading Assignment: 2009 – 2010

## Assigned Works:

*Fences*, August Wilson

*The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien

**Welcome to the wonderful world of Modern and Contemporary Literature.** As you know, an important component of the English program is the Summer Reading assignment. 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 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 three works. This essay assignment consists of **three** components: introduction with thesis statement, outline, final essay.

### 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 to enhance your chosen topic. (You are looking at what message the author is trying to get across and what rhetorical devices he or she is using to get that message across; you are looking at how rhetorical strategies affect meaning.) In your analysis, consider rhetorical strategies / literary devices such as allegory or extended metaphor, point of view, structure, detail, tone, diction, imagery, narration, and figurative language. 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.

## The written assignment consists of 3 components:

1. **Introduction (Into and Thesis statement):** your introduction, complete with an into and thesis statement is due during the first full week of classes, **Monday, August 17.**
2. **Outline:** an outline of your essay is due during the first full week of school, **Tuesday, August 18.**
3. **Essay:** In-class essay to be written during the first full week of classes, on **Thursday, August 20.**

**In a nutshell:** During the first full week of classes, you will be turning in an introduction and an outline. These will focus toward the in-class essay you will be writing that Thursday. **Dates are firm!**

**II. Exam:** The Summer Reading exam is scheduled for **Friday, August 21.**

## III. Poster:

- Design a poster on poster board (size 12 x 18) that depicts one of the main themes / topics of one of the other three works (**other than the novel / play on which you chose to do your essay**).
- 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**).
- Posters are due to class on **Tuesday, August 18, 2009.**