

Summer Reading Assignment – American Literature: 2009

Assigned Novel:

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

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. Essay Prompt:

Decide on a main theme from either work, and explore how **three symbols** from the novel relate to it. In other words, how do the symbols convey the overall theme or themes of the story? Your thesis statement should include the major theme in the form of a thematic statement not simply a word or phrase and all three symbols you will discuss in your essay.

The assignment consists of these components:

1. Introduction and Thesis statement: E-mail your introduction and thesis by **August 1st**
If approved, you are ready for #2; if denied, you must resubmit.
2. Outline: an outline of your essay is due during the first full week of school, Tuesday, August 18.
3. Essay: an in-class essay to be written during the first full week of classes, Thursday, August 20.

You will be emailing me your introduction with thesis (I will either approve or not approve it as you send it). If you are not approved, you must re-submit. Dates are firm. You will be graded on each component. Your grades from summer reading comprise the majority of your first marking period grade.

Please email each component the following location:

annemariadomenic@gmail.com

II Poster:

Please choose one of the above **novels** to be the subject of a poster.

- Design a poster (size 12 x 18") that depicts a **symbol** in one of the works listed above. (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 quote (neatly and accurately) onto the front of your poster (it must be visible from a distance).
- On the back of the poster, attach a **typed** explanation of the significance of the scene, as it relates to the rest of the novel. Explanation must be a well-developed paragraph of about 6-8 sentences. Include the quotation in your paragraph.
- **Posters are due the second day of school.**