

Summer Reading Assignment 2008

Eleventh Grade Honors--Northview High School

Our class actually begins *now*, with Summer Reading! This is an integral part of your course and these books will be referenced throughout the upcoming year. The selection was made with the idea that you will be able to comprehend without detailed class instruction. However, these are not necessarily “beach books” and may require you to consider some things in depth.

Required reading:

- *Letters from an American Farmer* by J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur

In a well-written, two-page essay, with one inch margins in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, justify the application of the author’s identification of America to today’s society.¹

In addition, read **one** of the following books. Be sure that you and your parents investigate the content of each book and choose a book that is appropriate for you.

- *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
- *Typical American* by Gish Jen *

Choose a character from your book of choice and be prepared to present a 3-4 minute monologue assessing other characters in the book and the significant plot events which apply to the themes from that character’s point of view.

*Caution: In contemporary fiction the subject matter may include mature themes. Please be certain that you and your parents have chosen a book that is appropriate for you.

Specific directions for **both** texts:

If you can do so, please buy copies of the books to underline and write marginal notes. This will help you review quickly and efficiently for later needs. For the summer of 2008, we are allowing underlining and annotation in lieu of journals.

Reading response journals may be substituted for the highlighting and annotation for both novels if the student chooses or if library copies are used. Use the following format if you decide to do the journals.

- Fold the page in half, lengthwise.
- On the left hand side, copy quotations that express character development, a theme of the work or an archetype (your choice of topic, but use a variety for each work). Be sure to use quotation marks and a page number for each.
- On the right hand side, describe the character, theme or archetype *as you interpret it*.
- Please keep entries parallel on the page.

All journals and/or annotated, highlighted copies will be collected Mon., Aug. 11, **the first day of school**. We will return them as needed to complete other related assignments on these works.

The number of these quotes and notes may vary from student to student, but should be appropriate to each book’s length. More depth and detail is better!

Please read the article “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer J. Adler, regardless of the format you choose to use. The article can be found at

http://academics.keene.edu/tmendham/documents/AdlerMortimerHowToMarkABook_20060802.pdf

Assessment:

Each of the summer annotated books or journals will be given a point value based on length and scored separately. Additional assignments may follow during the first week or two of school.

Northview High School has a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in an honor code violation and a zero on the assignment. Be sure you do not copy any information and that you cite your sources if you use outside information to write your essays.

¹ The essay must be submitted to www.turnitin.com during the first three days of school. Instructions and a class ID will be given on the first day.

Hard copies of the essay should still be turned in to your teacher on the first day of school!