

## SUMMER READING 2007

English 11 AP summer assignments – Mr. Markowitz

### Section One – Literature Base

The first two independent thesis papers for English 11 AP develop the adolescent/young adult theme based upon A Separate Peace by John Knowles, The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger, The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath, and your personal observations about adolescent behavior. So that you may complete these papers in a timely manner, you need to complete the following requirements:

A. Read each novel TWICE over the summer. It may be to your advantage to read them a second time later in the summer since you will have a reading test on them on the first Monday of the school year. My reading tests are all fill-in (no word bank) and range from general factual questions to completing specific passages. Close reading is essential. A poor grade on these reading tests suggests an inability to meet AP expectations, and will result in a recommendation to be removed from the course.

B. Throughout the summer keep a list of observations you note about adolescent and young adult behavior, both your own and others. These observations are not limited to specific experiences. Rather, they are generalizations which may apply to many adolescents in your life.

C. As you create this list, begin to note observations which also apply to characters in the novels. Note any events/passages which will support these observations and record their page numbers as well.

D. Finally, create a few sample thesis statements which may apply to each novel. A suggestion would be to include the reason for the behavior, the specific behavior itself, and the effects of this behavior on the adolescent/young adult. A general sample may be:

"Adolescents who wish to excel in English (reason), take English 11 AP (behavior) which causes them considerable stress (effects)."

A sample specific to this assignment may be:

"Because adolescents feel insecure (cause), they conform to their social groups' expectations (behavior) which may cause internal psychological conflicts (effect)."

E. Ultimately, you will need to prove your thesis using specific references back to the texts of each novel as well as specific references to your own life, whether personal or vicarious. You will **not** be writing this paper over the summer.

## Section Two – Non-fiction Base

There are thirteen areas of related theme below, most containing a combination of fiction and non-fiction texts. Read each area carefully and choose the ONE most aligned to your interests. For the ONE you choose, you will need to follow the directions within the area. **You will need to take DETAILED notes for each required reading within the area. These notes should contain information which suggests the commonality or link between the texts, as well as what you consider to be significant information within the text. Include specific supporting passages from each text and their respective page numbers. I will grade on detail as well as appropriate choice of notes.** These notes will be collected on the day of the reading tests for the literature section. Notes should be neatly written or typed, and properly organized. Ultimately, you will use these notes in writing a research paper as part of the preparation for the Regents exam in January. Note that all texts are indicated as non-fiction (nf) or fiction (f).

### Area 1 – Colonialism

Read ONE non-fiction and ONE fiction text.

1. *Founding Fathers* by Joseph Ellis (nf)
2. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* by Benjamin Franklin (nf)
3. *The American Sphinx* by Joseph Ellis (nf)
4. *1776* by David McCullough (nf)
5. *The Crisis AND Common Sense* by Thomas Paine (nf)
6. *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe (f)
7. Select poetry EACH of Anne Bradstreet, Jonathan Edwards, Edward Taylor, and Michael Wigglesworth (f)
8. *The Contrast* by Royall Tyler (f)
9. *Andre* by William Dunlap (f)
10. *Wieland* by Charles Brockden Brown (f)

### Area 2 – Civil War/Slavery

Read ONE non-fiction and ONE fiction text.

1. *Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Dubois (nf)
2. *Up From Slavery* by Booker T. Washington (nf)
3. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe (f)
4. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison (f)
5. *Jubilee* by Jack Dann (f)
6. *Freedom* by William Safire (f)
7. *Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane (f)
8. *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell (f)
9. *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara (f)

### **Area 3 – Native American**

Read ONE non-fiction and ONE fiction text.

1. *Century of Dishonor* by Helen Hunt Jackson (nf)
2. *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt (nf)
3. *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown (nf)
4. *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko (f)
5. *Lone Ranger and Tonto Have a Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie (f)
6. *The Way to Rainy Mountain* by N. Scott Momaday (f)
7. *House of Dawn* by N. Scott Momaday (f)

### **Area 4 – The Twenties**

Read ONE non-fiction and ONE fiction text.

1. *The Beautiful and the Damned: American Youth in the 1920's* by Paula Fass (nf)
2. *Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the 1920's* by Frederick Lewis Allen (nf)
3. *This Side of Paradise* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (f)
4. *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway (f)

### **Area 5 – The Great Depression**

Read ONE non-fiction and ONE fiction text.

1. *The Great Crash of 1929* by John K. Galbraith (nf)
2. *The Great Depression in American History* by David K. Fremon (nf)
3. *Freedom From Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945* by David M. Kennedy (nf)
4. *Twenty Years At Hull House* by Jane Addams (nf)
5. *No Ordinary Time* by Doris Kearns Goodwin (nf)
6. *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (f)
7. *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck (f)
8. *Dollmaker* by Harriet Arnow (f)
9. *Tobacco Road* by John Steinbeck (f)
10. *Winesburg, Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson (f)

### **Area 6 – The McCarthy Era**

Read BOTH texts.

1. *The Life and Times of Joe McCarthy: A Biography* by Thomas C. Reeves (nf)
2. *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (f)

### **Area 7 - The 1950's**

Read ONE non-fiction and ONE fiction text.

1. *Dangerous At Any Speed* by Ralph Nader (nf)
2. *The Korean War: Challenges in Crisis, Credibility and Command* by Burton I. Kaufman (nf)
3. *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac (f)

### **Area 8 – The Vietnam Era**

Read ONE non-fiction and ONE fiction text.

1. *The Making of the President – 1968* by Theodore White (nf)
2. *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream* by Doris Kearns Goodwin (nf)
3. *America's Longest War: The U.S. and Vietnam* by George Herring (nf)
4. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (f)
5. *Without Remorse* by Tom Clancy (f)

### **Area 9 – Feminism**

Read ONE non-fiction text and ONE fiction text.

1. *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan (nf)
2. *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement* by Sara M. Evans (nf)
3. Any appropriate biography of Gloria Steinem
4. *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Wolfe (f)
5. *Their Eyes are Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (f)
6. *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin (f)
7. *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham (f)

### **Area 10 – An Overview of American History**

Read BOTH texts.

1. *Twentieth Century America: A Brief History* by Thomas C. Reeves (nf)
2. *The People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn (nf)

### **Area 11 – Contrasts in Government**

Read BOTH texts.

1. *Slouching Towards Gomorrah* by Robert Bork (nf)
2. *Dangerous At Any Speed* by Ralph Nader (nf)

## Area 12 – Self-Education

Read TWO texts. Students who choose this area will develop a personal plan for their own self-education throughout the junior year.

1. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* by Benjamin Franklin (nf)
2. *Up From Slavery* by Booker T. Washington (nf)
3. *The Education of Henry Adams* by Henry Adams (nf)
4. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X (nf)

## Area 13 – Independent Choice

Choose a theme of personal interest in American history which is NOT reflected in the areas above and devise your own reading list of college-appropriate texts, both fiction and non-fiction. From your list read ONE non-fiction text and ONE fiction text. If you choose this option, you must present the reading list and choices for my approval **by the end of this school year**.

## Section Three – Becoming an Informed Citizen of the World

As part of your need to become a responsible citizen who is aware of our culture and its role in world affairs, I ask that you subscribe to a news periodical. I suggest Time and/or Newsweek since I will be using these magazines as sources of current information. We will also be analyzing select articles and editorials for rhetorical strategies and techniques.

## Caveats

1. I anticipate a course that will demand your highest intellectual and creative skills, coupled with a disciplined work ethic. The revised AP curriculum will challenge you beyond the scope of any previous AP English class. I trust that you will meet the challenge.
2. Since this is a college course, I also expect that you will either purchase these texts or order them from your local library.
3. Locating some of these texts may prove challenging. Do not procrastinate. To do so may result in your inability to read the assignments in your chosen area.
4. If you have any questions or concerns, please see me **before the end of the school year**.