

12th Grade Contemporary Literature
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2009



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

-- Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

There are TWO parts to this assignment. You MUST complete both the collection of newspaper columns/articles AND the contemporary novel assignment. Both assignments will be due the first week of school, even if you are taking the course second semester.

Part I.

Collection of Newspaper Columns/Articles/Political Cartoons

Select and read **TEN** editorial columns **OR** opinion pieces of contemporary interest from a newspaper such as *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* or *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. Two of the selections **MAY** be political cartoons. Print them from the electronic version of the paper on the internet, xerox a copy or cut them out from the newspaper directly if you own that newspaper. The selections must be from 2009 and you must physically turn in the ten articles. Here are a few helpful links:

<http://www.writershome.com/links/columnists.htm>.

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/opinion/>

www.ajc.com

<http://www.postwritersgroup.com/features.htm>

Assignment:

1. Annotate (take notes) on each of the ten pieces. You need at least **FOUR** comments (these may be brief) per article. You may defend, challenge, or qualify the author's viewpoint. At least **ONE** comment should be a "challenge" or disagreement with the author.
2. The term "qualify" in this context means that you may agree on some points made in the article and disagree on others. Whether you defend (agree), challenge (disagree) or qualify, make your position clear.
3. The first week of school, you will be expected to write about your articles in class.

Part II. Contemporary Novel Assignment

Choose any contemporary novel to read. For the purpose of this assignment, choose a novel that was written on or AFTER 1960. You may not choose a novel that is taught here at Decatur High School OR previously required as summer reading for grades 9-11.

Please TYPE this assignment if at all possible.

At the top of your assignment, under your name, list the title of your novel and publication information in MLA format. Use the underlined words to introduce each of your paper's six sections. If you know how to use the MLA header, place the bibliographic information directly under the header.

- 1. SUBJECT:** Write a complete sentence that tells your reader **what the story is about**.
- 2. THEME:** Write a sentence that explains **what you have learned** about the subject.
- 3. CHARACTER:** Write a paragraph describing the personality traits of **EACH** of the **three main characters**. Include one **QUOTE** from the book that describes **EACH** character. This means you will have **THREE** quotations for this section. Give the page number where this quotation may be found.
- 4. CONFLICT:** Choose from the list below the **type of conflict(s)** that are illustrated in the book. **Write a paragraph** describing the conflict. Use **at least one QUOTE** from the book as evidence to support your ideas.

Man vs. Man Man vs. Nature
Man vs. Self Man vs. Technology
Man vs. Society Man vs. the Supernatural

- 5. CHANGE:** How do the characters **grow or change** as a result of the above conflict? **Write a paragraph** describing the significance of the changes. Use at least one **QUOTE** from the book as evidence to support your idea.
- 6. PERSONAL CONNECTION:** What have you learned from this book? How might what you have learned **influence your life**? **Write a paragraph** in answer to these questions.