



SAINT IGNATIUS

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May 1, 2021

Dear Class of 2023,

This summer the English Department is requesting that you spend some time engaged in summer reading. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition will choose one of the titles listed below and complete some reflection and analysis work over the summer.

Text Choices

Students may read any of the following texts, each of which has appeared on past AP exams, represents diverse voice(s), and is appropriately rigorous for this college-level class. *Parents are encouraged to work with their son to pick a text that they feel is appropriate.* **Students must read a new text that they have not read individually or in a class.**

1. *The Awakening*
2. *Dracula*
3. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
4. *All the Pretty Horses*
5. *China Men*
6. *The Namesake*
7. *The Poisonwood Bible*
8. *The God of Small Things*
9. *All the Light We Cannot See*
10. *Ivanhoe*

Availability

If obtaining a copy of your book is a financial challenge for your family, please contact me via email at tcaputo@ignatius.edu. Please be sure to have a copy of the text with you during the opening weeks of school. E-books are also acceptable.

Summer Reading Assessment

During the first week of school, students will write an impromptu essay based on Free Response Question 3 on the AP Exam. These questions present broader thematic questions for students and ask them to create a careful, structured response to the prompt. This essay will serve as your first grade and as a diagnostic of your writing ability entering the class. Free Response Question 3 assesses a writer's ability to recall and analyze "specific evidence" from the text; though you will choose which pieces of evidence you analyze in your essay, you should have read the text carefully enough to recall specific examples, characters, images, and more.

Additionally, students should read their books with an eye for how the authors wrestle with issues of justice and exclusion. Consider how exclusion, injustice, or oppression affect the way those who are excluded look at society.

Active Reading Strategies

To further prepare for the assessment, The English Department recommends that students keep a reading journal and/or that they annotate their personal copies of their assigned summer reading text. An effective active reading process may include:

Annotating while reading. Make notes on important events, character developments, symbols, use of literary elements, and your own observations.

Catalogue Themes. Identify the major issues the text addresses, and connect your annotations to these themes. Ask yourself not only what the major topics in a text are but what the text is trying to say or argue about these issues and *how* and *why* it does so. You should annotate for one or two of the following thematic questions: how sacrifice illuminates a character's values; how a character's cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character; and how a character's understanding of justice and the degree to which the character's search for justice is successful.

Asking critical thinking questions. What are the issues, viewpoints, and themes of the book? How does the content of this book apply to your life or the lives of others? How and why does the text execute its goals?

We hope that the summer break provides you with some time to rest, reflect, and prepare for the new academic year at Saint Ignatius High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terra Caputo".

Dr. Terra Caputo
Chair, English Department