

**Eleventh Grade: Ms. Courtney Fuson**

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**AP Language and Composition  
2018-2019 Summer Reading**

**The summer reading assignment will be due the second day of class. Please have it printed and ready to turn in at that time.**

Required Text: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston

Assignment: Essay (100 pt writing grade)

We will be using this text at the beginning of the course to analyze it through multiple critical lenses, so you should plan to read it closely and annotate the novel as you go. You will have difficulty completing the first major assignment of the year if you have not read and annotated the novel, so please come prepared!

After reading the novel, please answer **one** of the questions below with an essay of at least two pages in length. This should be a formal essay with an introduction containing a thesis statement, body paragraphs with supporting text evidence that is correctly cited, and appropriate conventions. Essays should be typed using MLA format--12 pt black font, double-spaced. **Points will be deducted for larger fonts (including the title), larger line spacing, and altered margins.**

Essay Question Choices:

1. Trace the development of Janie's character from the novel's beginning to its end. How does Janie transform? What causes her to change? What theme does Hurston convey with this transformation? Be careful to avoid merely summarizing the plot.
2. What role does language play in the novel? Look beyond its role in establishing setting. Consider Hurston's use of dialect, the differences in both the style and the presence of the narrator's voice and Janie's voice, and the part language plays in the relationships of the characters. What is Hurston attempting to convey about language and voice?

Required Text: *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

Assignment: Annotated Book (100 pt test grade)

Students should read and annotate *Into the Wild*. This is a nonfiction text, which will be our primary focus in the course. Below are some general guidelines for annotating nonfiction.

**Annotation Expectations:**

- Anything that is underlined or highlighted should have some sort of explanation. Why did you mark this? Why was it significant? After returning to school from the summer, you

often will not remember why you underlined a passage or a phrase months ago, so you are expected to write at least one word by anything that is marked.

- If you cannot write in your book, you should use post-it notes to mark the text.
- Books will be checked for thorough annotation. Annotation should be a discussion you are having with the book, so mark it up as you go! What is your reaction to what is happening in the text? What questions do you have?

**What to annotate for when reading nonfiction:**

- Who is the speaker in the novel? Mark phrases and passages that give you clues about the speaker's identity--Is he educated? Does he have any biases? How does he feel about the topic?
- Who is the intended audience? Writers typically target their work to a specific audience, rather than to people in general. Mark phrases and passages that give you clues about who the intended audience is--What beliefs do they hold? What biases might they bring to the topic? How does the speaker target his/her message to this audience?
- Purpose: In fiction, you look for a theme. With nonfiction, you will often seek out the book's purpose. Mark anything that gives you clues about the author's purpose--Why did he/she write the book? What does he/she want the audience to take away after reading it?
- Style: What kind of diction does the author use? Is it formal or informal? Are the author's sentences short and choppy or long and flowing? How does the author choose to structure the story? Is there anything different about the way this author writes?

Additionally, it always a good idea to annotate the following:

- Unfamiliar Words
- Questions about confusing areas
- Reflections on the material--What is your response?
- Patterns that you see repeating
- Passages that seem strange or stand out in some way
- Important quotations

We will be using this text in class during our unit on argumentation. Failure to complete this novel will result in inability to complete a major writing assignment.

Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions. You may reach me at [courtney.fuson@knoxschools.org](mailto:courtney.fuson@knoxschools.org). I look forward to the coming year, and I hope you enjoy the reading!