

Summer Reading Assignment
AP English Language and Composition
Spring 2018

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your support of O’Gorman’s summer reading program for AP English Language and Composition students. I am very excited about teaching this course and challenging your students. I would like to share the following information with you regarding summer work. We encourage students to purchase their summer reading at Barnes and Noble during the O’Gorman book fair on **April 21**.

Mission Statement: I want to expose students to a great piece of literature over the summer months. I am a proponent of reading something fun over the summer, but I also feel it is important to expose students to something more challenging in order to keep their brains active. This summer, students will be reading *The Work of Wolves* by Kent Meyer.

Assessment and Expectations: One of the goals of this course is to help prepare students for the rigor of college classes. Therefore, one of the most important skills students will utilize in AP English Language and Composition is critical reading. As students read, they should annotate the novel, take notes, discuss the novel with classmates, and plan time to re-read sections of the novel (or the entire novel). A test will be taken over the novel on the first full day of class in the fall semester.

Summer Read Choices: There are many reasons why I chose this novel. First, I wanted to find something of literary merit. Second, I wanted to find a book that explores various cultures. Third, I wanted to expose students to a type of literature and a topic that they have not encountered before. I believe the book encompasses all three of these goals. The book is beautifully written. The book provides a strong, positive representation of Native American culture. The book takes place in South Dakota (many of the books students read take place in the United States, but a familiar setting will provide an even stronger impact for students). Characters in the book are faced with moral dilemmas, but they ultimately choose the correct path.

I want to make you aware that the book contains some questionable language. Despite the questionable language, I believe that the book is of great value and the students will benefit from studying it. Because of the questionable language, I would like you to give permission for your child to read the book. If you choose not to give permission, your child will be given an alternative reading assignment. Please sign and date below (last page of this document) and have your child return it to me by **May 11**.

College Credit: Students are able to earn college credit through this class by taking the AP Exam in the spring or enrolling in Dual Credit through Mount Marty College. Up to three credits are offered each semester through the Dual Credit program. Mount Marty will open the registration window for Fall Semester this spring, so students who are planning to register for Dual Credit are encouraged to do so this spring.

If you have any concerns, comments, or questions concerning the summer reading for AP English Language and Composition, please contact me at gskar@sfcss.org.

Sincerely,

Gwen E. Skar

Active Reading

Characters and Analysis:

“Each man is a product of his family’s history, yet each is an individual who must make a way for himself in his own generation.”

The novel follows four young men. Each of these four men deals with a life changing event, together and individually.

Main characters: I recommend taking notes on these characters (What happens to each man? What motivates each man? What changes each man?)

Carson Fielding

Earl Walks Alone

Willi Schubert

Ted Kills Many

Minor characters: Consider the effect these characters have on the main characters.

Magnus Yarborough – wealthy landowner; Carson works for him

Rebecca Yarborough – Magnus’ wife

Marie Fielding – Carson’s mother

Charles Fielding – Carson’s father

Ves Fielding – Carson’s grandfather

Norm Walks Alone – Earl’s uncle

Cyrus Walks Alone – Earl’s father

Lorna Walks Alone – Earl’s mother

Earl’s grandmother

Hermann Schubert – Willi’s father

Willi’s mother

Willi’s grandmother

The horses: Orlando, Surety, and Jesse

Setting – Twisted Tree, SD (fictional town in West River near the Badlands)

Themes/Symbols:

Life’s choices

Cages

Goatman

(there are several others, but these are the major ones)

Questions to consider:

1. How does each boy struggle to belong?
2. Who is the most influential character in each boy’s life? Why? How does he/she influence him?
3. Why are the boys able to work together?
4. Despite the many temptations, each of the four main characters makes the morally correct choice in the end. What does this say about these characters?
5. What does each of the main characters learn about life? About himself?
6. What role does land play in the novel?
7. How does Meyer use humor in the novel?
8. Which is your favorite character? Why?
9. How does the title apply to the novel?
10. Consider the implications of the quote above.

PERMISSION SLIP

TURN IN TO MRS. SKAR (O-208) BY MAY 11 AT 3:30

I give permission for my child _____ to read the novel *The Work of Wolves*.

Parent name _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

OR

I would prefer for my child _____ to read the alternative text.

Parent name _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____