

Summer Reading Assignment
AP Literature and Composition
Spring 2018

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your support of O’Gorman’s summer reading program for AP Literature 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 21st**.

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 *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck.

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 this class is critical reading and thinking. 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). I encourage students to take notes via sticky notes, paper, or directly on the text. **A test will be taken over the novel on the first full day of class in the fall semester.**

Summer Read Choices: There are numerous reasons why I chose this novel. First, I wanted to find something of literary merit and will be a healthy challenge for students to read. Second, I believe it is important that students study a novel that often appears on the AP Literature and Composition exam. Third, I want to expose themes and ideas that are seen in texts that we will study throughout the year; in this way, students will be able to continue discussing the novel in different units. Additionally, the AP exam emphasizes the importance of analyzing characterization, and this novel depicts complex characters who face multiple moral dilemmas. Finally, this novel serves as a biblical allegory. This provides an excellent opportunity to incorporate the Catholic faith in our class discussions.

If you have any concerns about the novel, please email me at kreagan@sfcss.org.

College Credit: Students are able to earn college credit through this class by taking the AP Exam in the spring. This class is NOT available for Dual Enrollment.

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

Sincerely,

Kelly Reagan

Active Reading

Students: In order for you to feel prepared for class, please consider the topics below. Be ready to discuss characters, setting, themes, and symbols when you arrive in class. These topics should give you some direction when taking notes or annotating your text. I will not be collecting a summer reading assignment; however, you are expected to participate in group discussions based on the topics below.

Main characters: I recommend taking notes on these characters (What happens to each character? What motivates each character? How does each character change?)

Trask Family

Cyrus Trask

Adam Trask

Charles Trask

Cathy

Aron Trask

Caleb Trask

Lee (not a biological family member)

Abra (not a biological family member)

Hamilton Family

Sam Hamilton

Liza Hamilton

Hamilton children, especially Dessie, Tom, and Will

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

Faye

Joe Valery

Ethel

Mr. Edwards

Sheriff Horace Quinn

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

Themes/Symbols:

Life's choices

Geographical setting (Salinas Valley, urban v. rural)

Loyalty in Relationships

Parent-Child Relationships (especially fathers and sons)

Connections to the Bible