

AP Literature and Composition

Spring 2017

Dear Parents:

First and foremost, thank you for your continued support of your child within the summer reading program at O’Gorman High School. As we continue on in an era of high stakes testing and growing curricular expectations, it is vital to provide students with as many reading opportunities as possible to help prepare students for the rigorous expectations of college. Please take a moment to review the following information:

Purpose: The purpose of the summer reading program is to allow students to refine and sharpen their own reading and critical thinking skills over the summer. Likewise, it helps students transition into the school year as the summer reading will be integrated into the curriculum throughout the school year.

Assessment and Expectations: Students will read ***East of Eden* by John Steinbeck** during the summer. Students should plan on spending ample time reading and rereading the assignment. The book should be highlighted and annotated. When students return to school in the fall, they will be given a comprehensive examination over the novel. The exam will be the first grade for the fall semester.

Academic Integrity: As expressed within the student handbook, students “should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct.” Students should demonstrate their own academic abilities within this summer reading assignment. Any student caught cheating will be removed from the course.

Google Classroom: We will be utilizing Google Classroom for AP Literature and Composition. The code is as follows: **pu4cff**. Students should enroll in the course through their Sioux Falls Catholic Schools accounts. I will post announcements and supporting materials.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the summer reading for AP Literature and Composition, please feel free to contact me in one of the following ways. I am more than happy to answer any questions that you might have.

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School Email: jvanengen@sfcss.org

Sincerely,

Jason A. Van Engen
O’Gorman High School
English, Journalism

Below are some questions that may help as you read the novel:

- 1) How are characters portrayed within the work?
- 2) What is the significance of the title of the work?
- 3) How does the author portray the dynamics within families?
- 4) What role does tradition play within the work?
- 5) What does the protagonist work to gain or lose?
- 6) How does setting affect the work?
- 7) What is the moral and social structure of the society?
- 8) What role does religion play within the work?
- 9) What is made of life and death within the work?
- 10) Compare and contrast father figures within the work.
- 11) How does Steinbeck's writing style differ from other authors you've read?
- 12) How is the text applicable within today's society?
- 13) How does the work handle morality?
- 14) What role do women play within the work?
- 15) What can the reader glean about family evolution?
- 16) What themes and motifs crop up within the work?
- 17) What symbols crop up within the work?
- 18) How are inequality and injustice portrayed as a vicious cycle?
- 19) What is the significance of competitiveness within each work?
- 20) What Catholic values are present within the novel?

Please note that more resources can be found at the class Wiki:

<http://mrvenglish.wikispaces.com/East+of+Eden>