



Literature and Language 2009 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear 12th graders:

May 2009

Literature and Language is a class that helps you prepare for the reading, writing, and thinking demands of college. Because you are seniors, I know you have phenomenal close-reading skills and you will take careful notes without being prompted. You need to get a spiral bound notebook for class this summer, so the first few pages will be **filled with thoughtful reading notes on these novels to hand in on the day school begins** in August. In case you are uncertain of what you should write about, focus on your reactions to characters and their words and actions as well as some thoughtful jotting about themes and symbols and writing technique. For the war novel, think hard about how the author is portraying the war and its effects on people and their lives, and give some examples of quotations that demonstrate this.

You will be reading two novels this summer, one required and one choice.

1. required:

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston**

2. choice:

***All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque, a story set during World War I (290 pages)**

***Catch 22* by Joseph Heller, a story set during World War II (450 pages)
Catch 22 is the only humorous book about a war on this list, but it is also longer.**

***Going After Cacciato* by Tim O'Brien, a story set during the Vietnam War (352 pages)**

***Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, a story about Afghanistan and the Taliban (324 pages)**

You will be doing some research on the war you choose to read about in August and you will write your first essay for this class about this war, so please choose a conflict and a time period you find interesting.

The information on this sheet is available on line. The CCPS website will direct you to the following link:
<http://sites.crossroadscollegeprep.org/summerreading/>