

**English 12 AP English Literature and Composition Pre-course Work 2011-2012**  
**Northeastern Senior High School - Mr. Benjamin N. Weaver**  
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You are responsible for reading **four** books this summer. Three are mandatory, and the fourth book may be chosen from the optional list below. All of the novels listed often appear on the AP English Literature and Composition Examination. Reading these books will help prepare you to do well on the AP English Literature and Composition Examination, so you may wish to read more than the required four.

Required Readings (Read **ALL THREE**)

- The Stranger by Albert Camus
- Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson
- Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Choose **ONE** option from this list

- Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
- Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy
- Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
- Native Son by Richard Wright
- A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
- Obasan by Joy Kogawa

Once you have read the four books listed above, you will be required to write two 5/6-paragraph essays.

1. The first essay you will write will require you to identify two arguable themes that are present in two of the aforementioned novels. Once identified, you will need to compare and contrast these two themes through meaningful analysis that includes discussion of literary elements such as diction, syntax, and/or figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, symbolism, hyperbole, etc.). Remember that you cannot discuss the aforementioned literary elements without discussing what they do (which in this case is to support the identified themes)!
2. The second essay you will write will require you to first identify any two characters present within the remaining two aforementioned novels. Once identified, you will need to compare and contrast how these two characters are presented (characterized) within the novels using literary elements such as detail, diction, syntax, and/or figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, symbolism, hyperbole, etc.) in your analysis. Remember that characterization can be both direct and indirect, thus your comparison/contrast should reflect this understanding.

As always, you will be expected to adhere to the following rules:

- Your essay should be typed using Times New Roman 12 point font, be double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides, and be between 2-4 pages long.
- You need an introduction that grabs the reader's attention, identifies the book titles and authors, and provides a thesis statement that reveals each paper's focused topic listed above.
- You need 3/4 body paragraphs minimum in order to compare and contrast each set of novels. Examine the adjoining handout for help regarding the structure of comp./contr. essays.
- You need a conclusion that restates your thesis statement and appropriately closes your essay.
- Remember these are analytical essays, so it is not appropriate to only summarize the novels!
- The essays will be graded using the PSSA writing rubric and a 6th criteria that grades whether all of the requirements listed above have been included.

**Due Date: August 11, 2011.**

(Essays should be submitted to the high school office on or prior to the date listed above to avoid late penalties.)