

Honors American Literature Summer and Fall Assignments



June 2, 2020

Dear students, parents, and guardians:

To supplement our Honors American Literature course, students enrolled in the honors program will complete summer reading and writing assignments. The readings relate directly to the other works in our American literature curriculum.

We recommend that you purchase your own books so that you can annotate and highlight important passages as you read. If you choose not to purchase a book, a limited number of loaner copies may be available from our school library or from the public library. I may be able to help as well.

You might also want to consider searching for an ebook or audiobook online.

All summer assignments will be submitted through email or on Schoology when the course is posted.

I will be using your school email account for all email communications with you, so please be sure to check your student email accounts through Office 365. **If you know in advance that you will have a conflict with the due dates, you must communicate those conflicts with me and make arrangements prior to the deadline.** Since we do not meet until the spring, I can be more flexible than a class that meets in the fall. Communication is key.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Upton. Thank you in advance for your work. Enjoy your summer. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mel Upton'.

Mel Upton
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Summer Course Requirements

- 1) **Literary Analysis:** Choose **two** of the following four prompts (one from *The Great Gatsby*, one from *The Age of Innocence*) to answer in an essay of at least 500 words. Cite, using MLA 8 Format, specific evidence from the text to support your answer.

***The Great Gatsby* (Due August 1, 2020 or before)**

- Originally titled *On the Road to West Egg*, then *Trimalchio*, then *Under the Red White and Blue or Gold-Hatted Gatsby*, Fitzgerald had difficulty settling on his title. Provide an argument to explain why *The Great Gatsby* title ideally does or does not suit the story. Analyze how the specific word choice of the title impacts the meaning or the tone of the novel. (CCR11-12.4)

OR

- Fitzgerald defies expectations by waiting until chapter three to directly introduce the protagonist, Jay Gatsby. This treatment allows for the other characters, and the reader, to create their own interpretations of Gatsby through rumor and exaggeration. How does Fitzgerald's introduction and development of Gatsby affect the driving action of the text? (CCR11-12.3)

***The Age of Innocence* (Due September 1, 2020 or before)**

- In *The Age of Innocence*, the narrator is an omniscient, unnamed narrator, who is not always objective. Often the narrator's ironic comments about New York are so subtly woven within the story that it may be easy to miss them. Find examples in the opening chapters where this narrator comments on New York society. Explain how the narrator contributes, by using these examples, to the construction of the story. (CCR11-12.6)

OR

- Wharton characterizes May as innocent and naïve next to Newland's worldliness and sophistication. Is this characterization consistent throughout the novel, or is there more to May than what is apparent? How does Wharton's development of May affect the driving action of the text? (CCR11-12.3)

- 2) **Schoology Discussion:** Utilizing the Schoology discussion feature, answer the following prompt: How do both *The Age of Innocence* and *The Great Gatsby* address the theme of appearance versus reality? What do Fitzgerald and Wharton suggest about the importance of reality? How does the influence of wealth affect the characters' perception of themselves, other characters, and reality? (CCR11-12.9)

- Your written responses should be thoughtful and meaningful, using specific evidence from the texts, in order to further the discussion of the works.
- Cite, using MLA Format, specific evidence from the text to support your answer. Respond to at least 2 of your classmates.

Your initial Schoology discussion post is due **October 1** by midnight. **Your replies to your classmates' posts** are due **October 8** by midnight. Once the Schoology classes are available for use this summer, I will send an email with details of how to access the discussion.

How will I be graded? Each novel essay will be worth 50 points, for a total of 100 points. The Schoology discussion post and replies will be worth a total of 30 points. Assignments must be turned in by the specified deadlines. Points may be deducted for late assignments if prior arrangement have not been made. School grading policy stipulates 10% points for every day an assignment is late.