

**American Literature Honors
11th grade Summer Reading Assignment 2015**

Any questions – please
contact Mrs. Urban at
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The 11th grade curriculum features a study of American Literature and this summer you will read two of its classics and one non-fiction text.

Reading Assignment #1:

***The Moon is Down* by John Steinbeck**

This first novel is a short novella that was considered propaganda during WWII. In order to understand the story's place in history, you must read the introduction in which the occupation of a town parallels the take over of towns in Nazi Germany. While you read remember... people in fascist Italy were sentenced to death for merely possessing this book. Cherish your freedom!

Writing Assignment #1:

Some people accused Steinbeck of showing the enemy in an admirable light. Steinbeck felt he was only showing the enemy as human. He felt that people in occupied cities and towns may have viewed their captors in a more favorable way than Americans across the sea saw them. In a well-developed, thesis driven essay explain whether Steinbeck's portrayal of the enemy troops was more effective or less effective for his propaganda campaign.

You will write your essay in the five-paragraph essay format, developing a strong introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs with supporting details, and a summarizing conclusion paragraph to solidify your argument. Must be 2-3 pages, double spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font and must be printed and turned in on the first day of school. You will be graded based on the SAT 6 point rubric; therefore, at least three textual examples should be included and each should be MLA cited.

Reading Assignment #2:

***The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

Read *The Scarlet Letter* and be prepared for a 50 point test on its plot upon your return to school. As you read, take notes, write questions, draw conclusions... draw pictures! Do what you must to actively engage in the text and I promise you will understand the story much better.

Reading Assignment #3:

***The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch (non-fiction)**

Read book and be prepared for an in-class essay (related to the book) during the first week of school.