

*****Important: See me before school ends this year
(June 16, 2017) to finalize the author you have chosen!**

Sophomore Honors Summer Reading and Writing

It is the English Department's assumption that students who register for the Honors English program have a love of reading and writing. Consequently, you will be reading two novels before class starts, one assigned and one that you will choose from a list. For each novel, you will be completing a double-entry journal, which is explained below.

This summer, you will read *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. This novel takes the reader into pre-colonial Nigeria and the rich tribal culture of the Ibo people. While the story focuses on the personal struggles of its protagonist, it also portrays the clash of cultures as Christian missionaries begin to appear in the Ibo villages in the late 1800's to early 1900's. The title of the novel is from the poem "The Second Coming" by W.B. Yeats, printed on the back side of this paper.

While reading, you must keep a **typed two-columned double-entry journal** that will be collected on the first day of class. **See format, attached.** In the left-hand column **choose and type up at least five passages** from the novel that capture meaningful ideas, or meaningful moments, in the novel. Be sure to indicate page numbers. In the second column, write your response to the quote. Your responses could include comments on how the quote ties in with certain themes, what the quote says about a character, or the how the author achieved a certain effect. Throughout the novel you will find many proverbs, communicating the values and beliefs of the Ibo people. Choose one of these proverbs for at least one of your five quotes. Your double-entry journal is due the first day of class; you will be using your quotes to support an essay about the novel during that first week.

Attached is a list of authors. Next year you will be analyzing the literature of one of these writers by reading a minimum of three of his/her novels. You will need to read one novel by your chosen author before the class starts, and as with *Things Fall Apart*, you will be creating a double-entry journal for that novel, with five selected quotes, with page numbers, and your responses to them. This double-entry journal also must be handed in on the first day of class. **Please choose your author before the start of summer vacation and let me know of your choice.** No more than three students may study the same author, so it is "first come, first served."

To summarize, over the summer, you are required to...

- 1. read *Things Fall Apart* and complete a double-entry journal with at least five entries.**
- 2. be prepared to write an in-class essay about *Things Fall Apart*, using some of your quotes for support.**
- 3. read one novel by the author of your choice and complete a double entry journal with at least five entries.**

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Ms. Pelletier, Room 302

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The Second Coming
by William Butler Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

Source: *The Collected Poems of W. B. Yeats* (1989)