

## **American Literature: 11th Grade Honors Summer Assignment**

**Welcome Class of 2025!** Summer is finally here and you should absolutely relax and recharge for what might arguably be the most challenging of your four school years at St. Saviour. We will prepare you for the English Regents exam and it is recommended that you purchase a **Barron's English Regents Exam Power Pack** to help you study, particularly when we have Review Sessions in the second half of the school year.

A list of the books you are required to read over the summer are listed below. When you return to school in September, you will be given a test at the end of the first full week of school based on the **handwritten notes** in your composition notebook. **No typed notes will be accepted for the day of the test.** Also, you will choose one of the Summer Reading books to write a **One Pager** about the themes that emerge from your reading.

To make the challenge of Summer Reading easier, consider **setting a goal** of how many pages you plan to read in a day. For example, if I want to read the book within two weeks, I would divide the number of pages of the books by 14 days, and make the resulting number of pages my reading goal. Track what you read in your notebook each day and write down the page numbers you are reflecting on.

**Then, complete the handwritten assignment below.**

**What will I be reading this summer?**

### **2023 List of Required Readings:**

**Fiction:** Each author's work represents challenges faced in American culture.

- *O Pioneers!* By Willa Cather
- *Swamplandia* by Karen Russell

~AND~

**Nonfiction book:**

- *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass

**Assignment #1: Keep a journal for each text.**

- A. **For the fictional novel.** Record the following:
- Key plot events

- Narrative point of view
- Conflicts
- Characters involved and their relationship with each other; their personality traits; how does the character change throughout the story.
- Two themes that the author develops.
- Literary devices, such as characterization, symbolism, setting, point of view, motif, irony, imagery, irony, etc. (There are many, many more so show what you know).
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance of each quotation.

**B. For the non-fiction book.**

- Summarize any major points the author makes, especially themes that emerge.
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance to the major points.
- Indicate what issue the non-fiction book addresses and try to make connections to either another text or to issues you hear in the news.

**Assignment #2: The One Pager.** After you complete your handwritten journal, write a one-page composition (300-500 word essay) with a thoughtful response about what you've read on a Google Doc (12 pt. Font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced with the heading). **Please do not summarize the text in your writing composition.** Draw conclusions of your own about the author's message. When the school year begins, you will be given a link to your Google Classroom page where you will upload this assignment.

**How will this be used in the Fall?**

Your written response and your ability to discuss it in class will be one of the first impressions I will have of your current writing style. More details will be provided in the first week of class.

**\*\*Every student is expected to complete these assignments and they will be due at the end of the first week of school.\*\***

Note: Here are some local places to buy your books besides ordering it online.

- **Barnes & Noble bookstore** (on 7th Ave. & 6th Street)
- **Troubled Sleep**, 129 6th Avenue, Brooklyn (used bookstore/cheaper)

- **HousingWorks.** Various locations; Not all of them have a used bookstore section so check their website or call before visiting.
- **Greenlight Bookstore** 686 Fulton St, Brooklyn, NY 11217
- **The Community Bookstore,** 143 7th Avenue.
- **Books are Magic,** 225 Smith Street, Brooklyn
- **The Strand Bookstore,** the corner of 12th Street and Broadway in Manhattan. This is the most iconic bookstore in New York City and it's completely worth the trip.
- **Now, find a great spot to read outdoors!** My favorite places to read are the Brooklyn Bridge Park in DUMBO, the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, and, of course, Prospect Park. In Queens, I love the Socrates Sculpture Park to read a book and catch a free performance offered by the city.
- **Too hot to read outside?** Try the Brooklyn Public Library; The Central Branch has a small cafe with seats on the first floor. You might also be able to borrow your required reading there too. Ask the Reference Library where the Summer Reading books are located.

If you have any questions, feel free to send me an email at [ulgen.m@stsaviour.org](mailto:ulgen.m@stsaviour.org) addressed to Mrs. Ulgen. In the heading, just write:

RE: Summer Reading 11th Honors

Enjoy your summer!