Dear Student:

Welcome to Honors American Literature and Composition. The following reading lists offer students high-interest readings, contemporary texts, non-fiction readings, as well as literary classics. Hopefully, you will find the summer readings enjoyable as well as thought provoking.

**Due Date:** Before or by the first day of school in the fall (first Semester). That means there should not be any late assignments!

These novels may be obtained at a bookstore, or a library, or ordered online, and more often than not, full texts can be obtained online (free of charge—don’t hold me to this one.). If you purchase your book from a bookstore or an online source, you are given the opportunity to highlight and make notes on your pages to help you read more critically. If you have any questions, you can email Dr. M Smith at marye.smith@henry.k12.ga.us

The following will be used throughout the summer, and the semester for contact with instructor; therefore, **all** students must come to Room 123 to get login information for the following:

1. Remind 101 for your class period/time
2. Turnitin for your class period/time
3. Schoology for your class period/time
4. Actively learn.com

- **Links for Reading and Listening to The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

  1. Link for full text for *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
     http://www.lessonpaths.com/learn/i/great-gatsby-unit/full-text-the-great-gatsby

  2. The Audio Version of *The Great Gatsby*
     http://librivox.bookdesign.biz/book/107877


- **Reading guide for the Great Gatsby** can be accessed on Schoology or by conducting Google search.
**Summer Reading list**

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*The Crucible*, by Author Miller  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain  
*The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway  
*The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
Poetry of Langston Hughes (at least six (6))  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston  
*All the King’s Men*, by Robert Penn Warren  
*A Long Day’s Journey Into Night*, by Eugene O’Neill  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, by Tennessee Williams  
*Catch 22*, by Joseph Heller  
*The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck  
*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck  
*Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe  
*The Shipping News*, by E. Annie Proulx  

Earlier American writings by Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Dickinson, etc. (2 of each)

***For additional titles go to [http://www.perfectionlearning.com/top%20100-american-lit-titles](http://www.perfectionlearning.com/top%20100-american-lit-titles) ***

I. Novel Activities

A. Read one (1) novel/reading genre from the summer reading list or the reading list website above.

B. Use the following assignments, demonstrate knowledge and understanding of your chosen summer reading book.

1. **News Article** —Write a featured news article that addresses something significant about the plot and conflict of your chosen book. Please “report” objective facts as well as “interviewing” a character to address perspective and point of view (as you would see in a regular news article) SUBMIT TO TURNITIN *(Save on a flash drive and to your documents)*

   - **The 5 Elements of a Newspaper Article**
     - **Headline or Header:** The headline is the title of the article. The headline is normally brief, doesn’t give much detail, and grabs the reader’s attention. It is typically not written in a complete sentence and attempts to sum up the main idea or topic. It is regularly written in a bigger font than the remainder of the article, and the main words are capitalized.
2. Sequel—Write a 1 ½ - a 2-page sequel for your chosen book. In other words, from your perspective and understanding of the book, what happens next??? (SUBMIT TO TURNITIN before or by the first day of school.

- (Save on a flash drive and to your documents)

3. Diary/Journal – Write at least five comprehensive journal entries for one of the characters in your chosen book/reading genre. Each entry needs to be at least a paragraph long and includes information that would entice your reader to want to read the book. (SUBMIT TO TURNITIN before or by the first day of school.

4. Visual and Explanation – Using any format of technology, create a visual representation of a significant part of your book along with matching quotes and explanations from your chosen book that address a deeper meaning and understanding.

- (Submit to Turnitin before or by the first day of school.
- (Save on a flash drive and to your documents)
- Be PREPARED TO PRESENT THIS ASSIGNMENT ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. If this assignment is not submitted to Turnitin by the due date, it will result in a zero for this assignment!

- (Save on a flash drive and to your documents)

II. Choose one character from the novel and write a character analysis (at least three paragraphs (see the following site for analysis examples: http://facultyweb.wcjc.edu/users/jonl/documents/charanalysis.pdf)
A. Guidelines for organizing and developing your writing analysis:

- **Pay attention to the character’s ethics.** Does the character make just or unjust choices? Consider Atticus Finch in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Atticus does not make morally correct choices only when it is convenient for him to do so. Rather, he shows he’s a truly just character by sticking to his principles even when his life is at stake.

- **Decide whether the character’s actions are wise or unwise.** For example, one may think of Friar Laurence in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* as being a character who continually makes poor decisions that reflect his inner corruption.

- **What is the character’s motivation?** As you are mulling over the pros and cons of each character’s internal thoughts and external actions, you will also want to consider why the character is acting or thinking in a particular way.

- **Consider the effects of the character’s behavior on other characters.** Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* is rife with the effects of one character’s actions on others. When Lydia decides to run off with the charlatan Wickham, she puts the whole family’s reputation, as well as her own, at risk, and even involves those outside her family, like Darcy.

- **Look for repeatedly used words that describe the character.** Those words often give insight into a character’s psychology and motivations. In John Steinbeck’s novel *East of Eden*, Kathy is frequently referred to as having “sharp little teeth” and a “flickering tongue,” which are symbols of her snake-like monstrousness.

- **Be aware of items associated with the character.** They may say something about his or her state of mind.

- **Read between the lines.** Often what a character does not say is as important as what he or she does say. Think of Abner Snopes in William Faulkner’s short story “Barn Burning.” When the court finds Snopes guilty of ruining his boss’ rug, prior knowledge of Abner’s character tells us that his silence upon hearing the verdict actually speaks volumes. We know he will react later…and violently.
- **Is the character “flat” or “round”?** A character is considered flat (or static) when he or she does not experience a change of any kind, does not grow from beginning to end.

- **Consider the historical period of the character.** Refrain from making modern judgments about the past; put the character’s actions and thoughts in context. A female character living in England in the 1800s obviously could not make the choices that she could today, for both political and social reasons.

- **Finally, what does the author think?** Look for any of the author’s own judgments about the characters he or she has created. The author may be directing you toward an intended interpretation. In *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne certainly meant for his readers to see Hester as good and Chillingworth as evil.

**III. Write a comparison and contrast essay discussing how** the novel you choose from the read list site ([http://www.perfectionlearning.com/top%20100-american-lit-titles](http://www.perfectionlearning.com/top%20100-american-lit-titles)), connects to Fitzgerald’s idea of the American Dream shown in *The Great Gatsby* (use textual evident to support your claims). **Submit your essay to Turnitin not to Schoology before or by the first day of school in the fall.**