

SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
1736 SOUTH TENTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19148
Phone (215) 465-8437 Fax (215) 462-2410
www.neumanngorettihs.org

11 Grade AP English Language Summer Assignment

Dear Rising Juniors:

Happy Summer! I am so happy to be teaching you this 2018-2019 school year! I am looking forward to helping you continue your journey at Neumann Goretti. As a part of a school wide initiative to keep students actively learning and engaged while they are away from Neumann Goretti, we have created a summer reading assignment. The objective of the summer reading assignment is to study effectively; you must read actively if you are to be successful in meeting high educational standards. This summer reading assignment is designed to help you practice and refine the skills which you already possess and to begin to acquire those which you may be lacking. Our new AP course this year will be rigorous and fast paced. I will not have any of you take this course only "to look good on your transcript." Our goal is to have each one of you pass your AP test at the end of the year, start college with credits to your name, and ultimately save some money on your classes. This summer assignment will help kick start our class and prevent "summer slide."

Your assignment is as follows:

Part 1/Part 2

Students must read **Tortilla Curtain** by T.C.Boyle and the play **Our Town** by Thornton Wilder.

While reading, you should annotate freely, that is markup your book (or use post it notes if it is not your book). Get involved in the books. When you think something, have a question, a comment, write it down. You may also want to write summaries of chapters containing your thoughts about what is happening and how you feel about the characters, the language, the story etc.

When you finish reading, write a one page minimum reaction paper. The requirements for this paper are simple: React to what you have read - What did the novel make you think about? What characters did you respond to ? What did you feel about what happened? How about the way the stories were told? Did you like the manner used to tell the story?

Do not use a question and answer format to do this. Just write a normal essay (you all know how to do this) reacting to the story.

Do NOT tell me what happened in the novels. I already know the plot.

I beg you not to use these lines: I liked it. It was good. It was all right. It was boring etc.

This is a more informal paper meaning you can use "I" even in your thesis but it should have a thesis.

Create a thesis statement like this one: In Great Expectations, I found a story full of plot twists and surprises, but also packed with characters which I grew to care about. or I never thought I could enjoy something written over 300 years ago but Macbeth really amazed me.

Use your mind. Amaze me. Do NOT look up critical analyses. I am interested in what YOU think and feel not what some professor wrote.

These notes will be helpful when we begin school especially if you read the books early in the summer because you will take a simple multiple choice test on both novels and then

**SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**
1736 SOUTH TENTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19148
Phone (215) 465-8437 Fax (215) 462-2410
www.neumanngorettihs.org

following discussion, you will be given a writing assignment in connection with each reading.

Part 3

Choose an essay from the list below. All can be found free online, just google the title and pdf.

Essays:

- Corn Pone Opinions- Mark Twain
- Devil Baby at Hull House - Jane Addams
- The Crack Up - F. Scott Fitzgerald
- The Future is Now - Katherine Porter
- Shooting the Elephant - George Orwell
- The Brown Wasps - Loren Eiseley
- Creation Myths of Cooperstown - Stephen Gould
- Death of a Moth - Virginia Woolf
- Cars and their Enemies - Wilson

When finished, write another reaction paper. Be brief but start by identifying what you read. Then, tell what the point of the essay was, what was the author trying to say? Then simply react to it. What do you think of this writer's ideas? Agree? Disagree? Perhaps neither, but the essay might make you think of something else you would like to say. The idea here is to THINK. Then back up your thoughts with support. Feel free to be creative. Please, be thoughtful in choosing an essay. Do not read one you are disengaged with or do not understand.

To help you keep track...

AP Summer Reading Checklist

___ Read Tortilla Curtain	___ Read Our Town	___ Read 1 Essay
___ Annotate Tortilla Curtain	___ Annotate Our Town	___ Annotate Essay
___ Reaction Paper	___ Reaction Paper	___ Reaction Paper

Happy reading and writing my students! Remember, you are not alone in your reading, I will be reading with you! Please email me at mdoran@neumanngorettihs.org with any questions. I may take a few days to answer (we are all in summer mode), but I will get back to you! Keep an open mind and enjoy the books! I can't wait for our year together!

Best,
Mrs. Muto