

## AP English IV Summer Reading and Writing

**This assignment requires that you read one novel over the summer and write an essay in response to that novel. The essay requires you to consider the complex reasons behind the main character's fall into insanity or deep confusion. Your writing should demonstrate a command of organization and language. It should also convey a unique insight into the novel.**

### ➤ Novel Choices

- *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison: This is the story of an African-American girl named Pecola who wishes for blue eyes. **This novel contains some upsetting scenes.**
  
- *The Catcher in the Rye*: This is the story of a troubled young man who embarks on a short journey of attempted realization. **This novel contains some mildly upsetting scenes.**

### ❖ Essay Prompt

- The main character in this novel struggles with or succumbs to mental illness. Analyze and discuss the complex, multi-faceted sources of and reasons behind this struggle.

### ❖ General Structure (You do not have to perfectly follow this structure.)

- Introduction: introduces big ideas; briefly discusses novel; establishes a thesis
- Body Paragraphs: go into depth about reasons behind character's struggle.; use specific evidence.
- Conclusion: does not restate the thesis or just summarize the essay; discusses what the author is trying to convey about our society by writing about the protagonist she/he does.

**If you have any questions about this assignment, please contact me via email. The essay should be roughly four pages in length and use MLA formatting. When you return to school you will have a quiz on the book. Thank you, and I look forward to being your English teacher.**

-Mr. Coffey