

AP Literature Summer Reading

We will begin our year in an exploration of African American literature; for many students this will be their first exposure to this genre in a high school class. The text we will all be reading is **Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God***. We have copies of this text available to check out in the bookstore or you can obtain your own copy if you prefer. Please have this novel read in its entirety by the end of the 2nd week of senior year.

While reading, it would probably be a good idea to annotate for content:

- major moments of epiphany
- conflicts
- character development

and literary techniques

- characterization
- setting
- figurative language
- style (diction and syntax)
- theme
- tone

Note passages that interest you, as you will need them for the assignments we will be completing using your summer reading novel. You may use post-it notes or write in the book if you own it.

Part II: Upon returning to school in July, we will be exploring various other authors from multicultural backgrounds in a unit that focuses on voice. Excerpts will include authors such as Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates, Amy Tan, Jhumpa Lahiri, Rudolpho Anaya, Kalid Hosseini, and Leslie Marmon Silko. We will also introduce some poetry that encompasses various voices.

You are not required to complete a project on your own for the summer reading novel, however, once we are together, you will be completing a series of analyses that explore the various literary elements of the novel. These will be in the form of short essays and will be completed for homework after further discussion in class.

You will be assessed on the novel during the 3rd week of school. This is a multiple choice exam as well as a timed open-ended prompt essay.

If you have any questions about your novel, please contact me via e-mail at:

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**** Throughout the year:**

References will be made to this novel, or you will be asked to compare/contrast characters and themes in this novel with characters and themes in other novels that we read during the year. **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THE NOVEL IN ITS ENTIRETY.**

Copies of this assignment may be obtained at the Basha website, www.cusd80.com on the English Department Page.