

Honors American Literature/Pre-AP

1. Read all selections in unit one of the American Literature anthology, pp.16-129. Generate notes and reaction to each selection.
2. You will have to buy one of the following books, read it, and take notes on it. There will be an essay question for you to answer for a test grade when you return at the end of the summer. I have a few copies of two of the titles to lend, but it is advisable to start or continue building your own library. Read a bit about each before you decide.

<i>You Shall Know Our Velocity</i>	Dave Eggers
<i>The Color of Water</i>	James McBride
<i>Breath, Eyes, Memory</i>	Edwidge Danticat
<i>Black No More</i>	George Schuyler
<i>Plum Bun</i>	Jessie Fauset
<i>Mumbo Jumbo</i>	Ishmael Reed

3. Read and take notes on *The Scarlet Letter*. When you return, you will be asked to discuss the novel and take a short-answer and essay test.
4. Either print from an online site or clip from a newspaper or magazine an article about American culture. Find one that you wish you wrote, a provocative, enlightening piece. Know it well when you return and be ready to share.
5. Throughout the year you will critique various cultural events. You will need to prove your attendance with tangible evidence such as a ticket or program, and a signature of a parent or guardian. Thus, if you do something fun such as attend an art museum this summer, take physical and mental notes and keep your ticket. These events must be of cultural or civic value, and while “value” is a subjective term, for now realize that popular music or athletic events do not qualify.

Whether you like it or not...whether you agree with it or not...whether you think it is true or not...SATs matter very, very much to most universities. It is the easiest first cut and the easiest last cut for them to make. The good news is that you already have been trained well for the writing portion. We will continue that sort of work this year, but you should buy an SAT Prep book. We will use the Princeton Review and Kaplan so do not buy that one, but you could purchase the Barron's in order to get ready.

Have a good summer in which you live your own stories to tell. What are we else but the stories we know and the stories we live? You don't have to answer that, but at least think about it. On a less abstract note and a more concrete one, you should begin the process of looking at colleges. It seems far away but think of how fast the last three years went. Go to www.collegeboard.com and establish your own account. It is free and will guide you through the process. Go on...do it.