

# HUM 2: AP US History and English 11 Summer Assignment

Welcome to your junior year humanities course, a team-taught combination of Advanced Placement U.S. History and English 11. Below is the history portion AND English portion of your Hum 2 summer reading. It is meant to be informative, enjoyable, and thought provoking. This activity will introduce you to the late-colonial/early federal period of American history and the American short story. The assignment is due on the first day you meet your Hum 2 teachers.

First you will find the A.P. U.S. History reading assignment which will be followed by the English 11 assignment. Be sure to complete **BOTH** assignments for this course.

## **A.P. U.S. HISTORY ASSIGNMENT**

Please read one of the listed books early enough in the summer to give you time to think about the author's ideas and also to allow you to develop a well structured paper.

*1776* by David McCullough (available everywhere, it is still in hardback)

You might try Amazon.com for a better deal.

*Founding Brothers* by Joseph J. Ellis (available in paperback)

In most bookstores, you might try a used book store.

*George Washington: His Excellency* by Joseph J. Ellis (now in paperback)

In most bookstores at this time.

*Miracle at Philadelphia* by Catherine Drinker Bowen

This is the oldest of the four selections. It is still available in many

bookstores. You can also check it out from TJ during the week on

June 12-16 in room 228.

*All of the above books are available from you local public library.*

Here are some suggested questions you might answer in your paper. You are not, however, limited to just these questions.

What is the author's overriding thesis? How does s/he prove his thesis?

Does s/he explain why detractors from his/her thesis are incorrect or weak arguments? NOTE: The thesis may not be a sentence clearly established in the opening of the book. You may have to think about this.

Discuss the author's use of evidence to prove his/her thesis.

Does the author have a bias? If so, explain.

Write two thoughtful questions you would ask the author about his/her work. Why these questions?

Write one thoughtful question you would ask a major "character" in the Book. Why this question?

What other observations/insights do you have that strike you as interesting? Why?

Your paper should be no longer than four pages typed double-spaced (12 pt. font and standard margins) and ready to be turned in on the first day you meet your new U.S. History teacher.

Your teachers will establish point values based on their own grading systems to make the paper equivalent to a major test grade.

## **ENGLISH 11 ASSIGNMENT**

June, 2006

Dear Rising Juniors,

We'd like to inform you about your English reading assignment for the summer. Each of you will receive a copy of *The Oxford Book of American Short Stories* before you leave school. (Please check with Guidance over the summer if you did not receive a copy; they will provide you with one.) Please note that you can access this assignment online from the TJ homepage. Just click on "academics" (right menu) and you will find it under "summer assignments."

We are asking that you read the **five required stories** listed below, and that you **choose five additional stories** to read as well. Of course, you may read as many as you like, but keep in mind that you'll need to *reread* selections assigned later in the year for English class. The required stories are:

"The Tell-Tale Heart" –Edgar Allan Poe

"Cannibalism in the Cars"—Samuel Clemens

"The Man Who Was Almost a Man"—Richard Wright

"A Late Encounter with the Enemy"—Flannery O'Connor

"Where Is the Voice Coming From?"—Eudora Welty

Although you are not required to write about your reading over the summer, you *will be* writing in English class in early in September. You will certainly want to keep track of the stories you choose to read, and perhaps take informal notes to jog your memory about immediate impressions upon reading and reflecting. This should prove helpful especially if you complete your assignment early in the summer.

Have a great summer!

Hum II English Teachers