

AMERICAN LIT

2011 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

TITLES:

Thornton Wilder, *Our Town* (any edition)

and EITHER:

Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (Norton Critical Edition)

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (any edition)

EXPECTATIONS FOR SUMMER READING:

ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND BOOKS ARE DUE IN CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

Work in the Summer Journals must be neatly kept and organized according to the specifications below. All submitted work must be your own. If it is determined that any part of the summer work was plagiarized, the assignment will be automatically marked zero and additional disciplinary consequences will be imposed. This also goes for the sharing of work between students. If two or more journals contain an inordinate amount of similar responses, the same rules will apply. In short, DO YOUR OWN WORK. Doing otherwise will get you nowhere.

ALL WORKS ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, BOOKSTORES, AND ONLINE.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be responsible for keeping a summer writing journal.

Step One:

- Acquire a spiral-bound notebook.
- On page 1 of your notebook, create a title page with your name and “Summer Reading 2011” both present.
- On page 2, design a reading schedule for the required books that you will hold yourself to throughout the summer months.

Step Two:

- Read either *Moby-Dick* or *The Sun Also Rises*.
- On pages 3, 4, 5 and 6 of your notebook, respond to the following prompt questions about the novel:
 - Select four individual chapters that you found interesting and/or illuminating (make sure they are chosen from throughout the entire book and not all found early on).
 - Write page-length, analytical responses (with minimal use of “I” statements) to each of these chapters discussing which chapter you felt:
 - ▶ Was the most key to the events of the plot (page 3)
 - ▶ Was the most important to the theme of the novel (page 4)
 - ▶ Utilized the strongest or most effective symbolism (page 5)
 - ▶ Created the most effective or remarkable imagery (page 6)

Step Three:

- Read *Our Town*.
- For page 7 of your notebook and onwards, you will be creating a Dialectical Journal.
 - To set up your Dialectical Journal:
 - ▶ Draw a line vertically down the center of each page from page 7 onwards
 - ▶ Label the left-hand column of each page “QUOTES” and the right-hand column “ANALYSIS”
 - To complete your Dialectical Journal:
 - ▶ Choose significant passages and copy them chronologically into the left-hand columns, citing act, scene, character, and page number
 - ▶ In the right-hand columns, comment on the passages by discussing the aspects which led you to choosing each as significant
 - ▶ By the end of either novel, you should have made approximately 30-40 entries into your Dialectical Journal. See the sample entry below:

Sample Dialectical Journal entry from *Moby-Dick*:

QUOTES

“Now, three to three, ye stand. Commend the murderous chalices! Bestow them, ye who are now made parties to this indissoluble league.” (Ch. 36, pg. 142)

ANALYSIS

This quote, said by Ahab to his crew on The Pequod’s quarter-deck, comes from a dramatic speech that culminates with Ahab crying “Death to Moby Dick!” What this particular quoted portion of the speech suggests, however, is that Ahab views this mission and his crew as members of a pact (“indissoluble league”) from which they will never separate themselves and return to being individuals again.

