



# Saint Thomas Aquinas

## Regional Catholic High School



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Dear Parents and Students,

The English Department of St. Thomas Aquinas High School is excited to introduce the Summer Reading Assignment for the 2017/2018 school year. This summer, students are required to read the novel indicated for their class, and complete the accompanying assignment. The purpose of these assignments is to practice the skills of critical or close reading and writing. In order for these assignments to have their intended impact, students should work on them at a gradual pace, throughout the summer. Honors and AP classes will have additional assignments. The summer reading novels are as follows:

English I:

*A Long Way Home: A Boy's Incredible Journey to Australia and Back Again* by Saroo Brierley

English II:

*The Book of Joy* by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu

English II Honors Additional Novel:

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

English III:

*The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore

English III Honors Additional Novel:

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston

English III AP: Language & Composition

*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote  
*They Say, I Say, The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

English III AP will also read one novel of choice from the New York Times Bestseller List for Adult Hardcover or Paperback Non-Fiction ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)).

English IV:

*Dead Wake* by Erik Larson

English IV AP: Literature & Composition

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

English IV AP will also read one Novel of Choice from the New York Times Bestseller List for Adult Hardcover or Paperback Fiction ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)).

Although the novels will **not** be for resale at the school, students can choose one of the following options in order to obtain a copy of their novel of choice:

**1. Visit “Bayou Booksellers”:**

Address: 201 W. Thomas St. # A, Hammond, LA      **Hours:** Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00  
Saturday 9:30-4:00  
Sunday Closed

**2. Order online, purchase or check out from another source.**

**3. Students are advised to check iBooks or *Amazon.com* for free or discounted versions of novels listed.**

**REQUIRED SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS BY CLASS**

**ENGLISH I:**

**1. Journal 50 points**

While reading the novel, type a 150-200 word journal entry for EACH chapter. Each entry should include a short summary of the chapter and a personal reflection. You should have a total of 15 journal entries. For your reflection, you may address the following questions: What was your initial reaction after reading the chapter? What do you think will happen next? How does the title of the chapter and/or quote at the beginning of each chapter reflect the events described? Were you shocked, surprised, sad, etc. after reading the chapter? Did it remind you of a situation that you or someone you know has experienced? What would you do if you were in the same situation?

You should have a digital copy of this assignment saved to your iPad, once you receive it on Orientation Day. You will submit the assignment to eBackpack during class. The entire journal should be the product of the student's own individual work. If any part of the journal is flagged as being plagiarized from the Internet or another student, the student will receive a 0 on the assignment. **The journal will be due on the first full day of class: Thursday, August 10.**

**2. Test 75 points**

On the second day of class, the student will take a test consisting of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and an essay. The test will be based on the plot, characters, setting, and theme of the novel. **The test will be taken on the second full day of class, Friday, August 11.**

**ENGLISH II:**

**1. Reflection Journal 50 points**

While reading *The Book of Joy*, type a 150-200 word journal entry for EACH chapter. Each entry should include a short summary of the chapter and a personal reflection. You should have a total of 26 journal entries. For your reflection, you may address the following questions: What was your initial reaction after reading the chapter? What do you think will happen next? How does the title of the chapter reflect the events described? Were you shocked, surprised, sad, etc. after reading the chapter? Did it remind you of a situation that you or someone you know has experienced? What would you do

if you were in the same situation? **The journals will be due on the first day of class, Thursday, August 10.**

## 2. Test

**50 points**

English II students will take a test on *The Book of Joy*. The test will consist of a matching section of characters, multiple choice questions on the setting, plot, and theme, as well as an essay. **The test will be taken on the second regular day of class, Friday, August 11.**

### ENGLISH II HONORS:

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING 2 NOVELS**

#### 1. Annotations Journal:

**50 points**

In addition to *The Book of Joy*, honors will also read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. For each chapter in *Animal Farm*, students must type a summary of the chapter and identify 2 quotes (not necessarily dialogue) that illustrate symbolism, theme, or character development that you see in the chapter. **This will be turned in to eBackpack on the day you submit your Book Review (Thursday, August 10).**

#### 2. Book Review

**50 points**

All students in English II Honors will read the novel *Animal Farm* and complete a Book Review. The Book Review should be 3 pages. The Review should be written according to MLA format (see below instructions) and will be **due on the first full day of class: Thursday, August 10**. The book reviews should contain the following information:

Part 1: Introduction: This paragraph should include the name and author of the book along with a summary of the main events. This is the only paragraph that should have any summary. This paragraph should be no more than seven sentences.

Part 2: Important characters and the role they play in the novel. Each character must also include a quote that you believe represents who they are.

Part 3: List any themes you see in the novel and explain them.

Part 4: What is the overall theme or message you think comes from this book?

Part 5: What do you think this book is based off of? Conclude your paper with what this book might be trying to illustrate in history.

#### 3. Test

**50 Points**

English II Honors students will take a test on *The Book of Joy* (not *Animal Farm*). The test will consist of a matching section of characters, multiple choice questions on the setting, plot, and message of the novel, short answers, and an essay. **The test will be taken on the second day of class, Friday, August 11.**

### ENGLISH III:

1. **Essay**—Students will write a 500-750 word essay on the novel *The Other Wes Moore*. Students will pick ONE topic from the list below. Essays should be formatted according to MLA and be structured with a clear introduction with thesis statement, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. **The essay will be handed in to eBackpack on the first full day of class: Thursday, August 10.**
  - a. The novel begins with Wes and Wes's discussion of their fathers. What role do you think fatherhood plays in the lives of these men? How do the absence of their fathers and the differences in the reasons for their absences affect them? Use evidence from the novel to back up your answer.
  - b. Discuss the relationship between education and poverty. In your discussion, consider the education levels of both Wes' mothers, how far each man got in his education, the opportunities they gained or lost as a result of their education, and their reasons for continuing or discontinuing their studies. Use evidence from the novel to back up your answer.
2. **Test**—On the first full day of class, English III students will take a test on *The Other Wes Moore*. The test will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and an essay question. The short answer and essay question will focus on setting, plot, theme, characters, and historical significance. Students should also be prepared to reflect on the novel in the context of the American Dream. **Students will take the test on the second full day of class, Friday, August 11.**

### ENGLISH III HONORS:

### **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING 2 NOVELS**

1. **Extra Assignment:** In addition to the above assignment, honors students are to read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston. **Students will have a test (In-Class Essay) on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* on the third day of class: Monday, August 14.**

### ENGLISH III AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION:

Complete the Assignment given to you at the AP Language & Composition meeting. The handout is also available under Student Docs on the STA website.

### ENGLISH IV:

1. **Essay**—Students will write a 700-900 word essay (including an introduction, thesis statement, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion) that is an analysis of one literary element (character, setting, diction, point of view, theme, or symbolism) from *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson. Students should analyze Larson's use of narrative story telling to answer the question-**What is the overall meaning or message that Larson is trying to convey in this novel and how does he do it using the literary element?** Students should NOT summarize the plot of the novel in their essay. Students should use a minimum of 3 direct quotes from *Dead Wake* as supporting evidence in their essay, and no outside sources are required. Students are NOT required to do a Works Cited page. **The essays will be handed in to eBackpack on the first full day of class: Thursday, August 10.**
2. **Test**—On the second full day of class, English IV students will take a test on *Dead Wake*. The test will consist of multiple choice, character identifications, quote identifications, and short answer questions. **The test will be taken on the second full day of class, Friday, August 11.**

### ENGLISH IV AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION:

Complete the Assignment given to you at the AP Literature & Composition meeting. The handout is also available under Student Docs on the STA website.

## MLA FORMATTING

As a review, MLA format includes: 12 point font, Times New Roman, & double spaced. Your paper should have an MLA heading and header with your last name and the page #. Use in-text citations for quoted and paraphrased material. There is a good explanation of MLA formatting online at owl.english.purdue.edu.

## PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

All written work that is to be handed in as part of this summer assignment is to be completed by each individual student and should be the original work of each student. Students who plagiarize will be subject to disciplinary action up to an In-School Suspension that includes receiving a possible grade of “0” for the assignment, according to the policy outlined in the STA Handbook:

“Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. This includes work on research papers, homework, and other assignments, as well as on tests. **Students should refrain from loaning any form of their work to other students. If work has been copied, there will be assumed guilt on the part of all students involved.** Student’s work or behavior that, in the opinion of the teacher and/or administration, is a violation of academic honesty will be subject to disciplinary action. Students should have a strong desire to do their best and not to take credit for the efforts of another student. Tutoring is understood as providing clarification or explanation of a subject. Work that is turned in that is not entirely the work of the student is considered a violation of academic honesty.”

We invite parents, relatives, and friends to read these novels with us! Thank you for your cooperation and support of our school! If you have any questions, please contact the English Department Chair, Mrs. Alexandra Burris, M.A. at [aburris@stafalcons.org](mailto:aburris@stafalcons.org).

Have a wonderful summer,

STA English Department