

*English 11 Honors  
Summer Assignment 2009*

**PART 1. Author Study**

On the back of this page, you will find a list of authors of significant literary merit. Over the course of the school year, you will be required to read three novels by one author from this list, culminating in a project during 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

**During the summer, you are to choose your author from the list and read one novel-length work by him or her.**

Remember that since you will be completing three books by this author, you must be sure this author is one you enjoy. Be sure the author has three books you are interested in reading.

Furthermore, be aware of the required lengths when choosing a novel. Your chosen novel must be a significant length—at least 100 pages.

**PART 2. Formal Essay**

Then, choose one of the following essay questions. Please type your response, being sure to thoroughly proofread your essay. Your response should be at least **three full, double-spaced, typed pages**, conforming to the standard rules of MLA format. Avoid mere plot summary, but include significant and effective text support discussing various scenes from the novel. Refer to [owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu) for the most current Modern Language Association formatting.

**Choice 1:**

**Morally ambiguous characters—characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good—are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole.**

**Choice 2:**

**From a novel, choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict within one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.**

**Choice 3:**

**Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a novel or a play in which such a character plays a significant role and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions or moral values.**

This assignment is due when you return to school in the fall.

### Approved Authors

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi	Gaines, Ernest	Moliere, Jean-Baptiste
Albom, Mitch	Giles, Gail	Morrison, Toni
Alvarez, Julia	Gladwell, Malcohm	Myers, Walter Dean
Anderson, Laurie Halse	Godwin, Gail	Oates, Joyce Carol
Angelou, Maya	Gregory, Philippa	O'Brien, Tim
Atwood, Margaret	Grisham, John	Orwell, George
Austen, Jane	Gruen, Sara	Palahniuk, Chuck
Becket, Samuel	Haddon, Mark	Paton, Alan
Bradbury, Ray	Haley, Alex	Patterson, James
Bronte, Charlotte	Hardy, Thomas	Picoult, Jodi
Brown, Alexander Dee	Heller, Joseph	Plath, Sylvia
Brown, Dan	Hemingway, Ernest	Plato
Camus, Albert	Hesse, Herman	Potok, Chaim
Capote, Truman	Hurston, Zora Neal	Quindlen, Anna
Card, Orson Scott	Huxley, Aldous	Rand, Ayn
Christie, Agatha	Irving, John	Salinger, J.D.
Cisneros, Sandra	James, Henry	Saroyan, William
Clancy, Tom	Kerouac, Jack	Sebold, Alice
Clark, Mary Higgins	Kesey, Ken	Sedaris, David
Coelho, Paulo	Kidd, Sue Monk	Smith, Betty
		Steinbeck, John (excluding <u>The Grapes of Wrath</u> )
Cormier, Robert	King, Stephen	Tan, Amy
Crichton, Michael	Kingsolver, Barbara	Tolkien, J.R.R.
Crutcher, Chris	Kingston, Maxine Hong	Tolstoy, Leo
Dickens, Charles	Koontz, Dean	Trueman, Terry
Dillard, Annie	Lahiri, Jumpa	Twain, Mark
Dostoevsky, Fyodor	Lamb, Wally	Vonnegut, Kurt
Doyle, Arthur Conan	Larson, Erik	Walker, Alice
Draper, Sharon	Lawrence, D.H.	Wells, H.G.
Dreiser, Theodore	LeGuin, Ursula K.	Wharton, Edith
Eliot, T.S.	Lewis, C.S.	Wiesel, Elie
Faulkner, William	Lowry, Lois	
Fitzgerald, F. Scott (excluding <u>The Great Gatsby</u> )	Mah, Adeline Yen	Wilson, August
Flinn, Alex	McCourt, Frank	Woolf, Virginia
Forster, E.M.	Melville, Herman	Wright, Richard

Please note: you may not read a novel already assigned to you in an English classroom—either in the form of direct instruction or independent reading. You may not choose the same author as your 10<sup>th</sup> grade research project.

If you have an author you would like to study, please email Mrs. Hill (shill@aacps.org), Mrs. Earhart (vearhart@aacps.org), or Ms. Bowman (cbowman@aacps.org).

If your author is not approved, you may not do that author, and your assignment will not be accepted.