

May 16, 2008

**You must read this ENTIRE letter. You must EMAIL next year's teacher with specific information about your summer reading. This letter contains WEBSITES that you must visit to successfully complete your summer reading assignment.**

Dear Senior AP English Student,

Welcome to Senior AP English. I guarantee this class will be a unique and challenging experience for you. We will combine philosophy and psychology into a critical humanities approach to reading, discussing, and writing about literature. The purpose of this letter is to explain the summer reading requirements and give you other course information that you may find helpful before school begins in the fall.

I suggest you buy your own copies of the required titles listed below. We will use them as the focus for the first unit, so being able to mark in your books gives you a distinct advantage. Copies of the required summer reading titles are available at any area bookstore; extra copies have been ordered from Barnes and Noble in Town Square and Borders at Rice Lake. Of course, you can also use online resources like Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com

**#1 (Required by all students): *The Princess Bride* (by William Goldman)** — do not simply watch the movie. The real reason for reading the book goes beyond just the fantasy setting and the love story.

**#2 (Required by all students): “A Modest Proposal” (by Johnathan Swift)** — don't eat right before you read it, and remember that the essay is a satire. Swift isn't really *serious* about his proposal, but the problem he is addressing is part of a larger issue. The full text of this essay is available by following the links below, or you can do a Google search with the terms “A Modest Proposal” and “full text”

- “Johnathan Swift: “A Modest Proposal”” (<http://www.uoregon.edu/~rbear/modest.html>)
- “A Modest Proposal”: Project Gutenberg (<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext97/mdprp10.txt>)
- “A Modest Proposal by Johnathan Swift – Full Text Free Book” (<http://www.fullbooks.com/A-Modest-Proposal.html>)

**#3 (Choose ONE of the following)**

- *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (by Mark Twain)
- *Brave New World* (by Aldous Huxley)
- *Candide* (by Voltaire)
- *Slaughterhouse Five* (by Kurt Vonnegut)

**You must EMAIL your first and second choice to me at [cmaquino@wowway.com](mailto:cmaquino@wowway.com) no later than July 1, 2008.** After July 1, you can log onto [www.wideopenwest.com/~cmaquino](http://www.wideopenwest.com/~cmaquino) to check which book you will be responsible for reading. There are a limited number of students allowed for each book. Books will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. *No switching or trading is allowed.* You are responsible for the book you select.

The theme for the summer reading is *satire*. It would be wise of you to check websites for the definition and defining characteristics of satire before you begin reading. These details and ideas should help you focus your notes and find similarities between the style, purpose, or themes to the books. Keep notes in both books. Include questions, reactions, character analysis, literary devices, recurrent elements or symbols, significant passages, larger ideas and arguments, and anything else that shows you ability to read and dissect a complex work of literature. ***You need to bring your books, a print-out of “A Modest Proposal,” and notes to the first full day of class for use during an in-class essay that will cover a common topic among all three reading selections.***

Listed below is a list of the major works we will be reading for the year. The exact semester, order, and inclusion has not been finalized, but I am giving you this list early in case you want to buy to order any copies to have for yourself.

- *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Williams)
- *Othello* (Shakespeare)
- *J.B.* (MacLeish)
- *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (Kesey)
- *The Stranger* (Camus)
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Hurston)
- *The Bluest Eye* (Morrison)
- *Waiting for Godot* (Beckett)

Additionally, you may email me over the summer at [cmaquino@wowway.com](mailto:cmaquino@wowway.com) if you have any questions regarding the course or the summer reading.

I hope this letter gives you all the information you need to begin preparing for next year’s class. I truly believe you will have a challenging, rewarding, and enjoyable time with this course. I look forward to seeing all of you next year. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Aquino