

Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School
11th Honors Summer Reading Instructions

This is an American literature course intended to prepare you for the both Senior-level honors English and the AP literature course and exam your senior year.

This summer you will read two novels and one play with similar themes. They are:

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
Fair and Tender Ladies by Lee Smith
Fences by August Wilson

The main characters in these three works all encounter loss of some kind and all deal with it in different manners. One of the first assignments we will have next year is to write a paper comparing and contrasting the different manners in which the main characters handle their loss. As you read each work you should take notes—underlining and dog-earring pages that might be useful in your paper. Think of what types of loss they experience. Are they external or internal? Are they physical, spiritual, or emotional? Do the characters hide their pain or burst out at it? Do they react in ways that are appropriate for their ages? Do they gain anything as a result of their loss? You will not write this paper over the summer; you should however, be thinking of the answers to these questions and what you might write when it is time for this assignment.

You should also be prepared for a test over these three works on the second day of the school year.

This summer you should also create a mini-soundtrack that would work for film versions of these works. You should create three soundtracks (one for each work) containing five songs each. Type a list of songs you would use, including whom you would have performing them, and beneath each song write a paragraph explaining why that particular song is appropriate for the work and in which scene you would incorporate the song. For instance, if I were doing this for *Frankenstein* I might write something like the following:

1. “What a Wonderful World” performed by Louis Armstrong

The lyrics of “What a Wonderful World” describe the beauty of surrounding nature and people. All characters in the novel *Frankenstein* are constantly observing the glorious beauty of nature. The song might strike the viewer of my film as eerie or creepy if I used it in the scene where the creature first begins to discover his surroundings because it would be a bright and happy sound contrasted against the grotesque appearance of the creature. It will also serve as audio irony as the creature is threatened by humans while Armstrong sings of their beauty.

Note that you’re only doing five songs per work, so you won’t have a song for every scene, and you do not have to create your soundtrack chronologically.

Remember you only need to create the list of songs with your explanations. There is no need to actually create these as a cd and doing so will not gain you any extra credit.

Have fun with this assignment, and e-mail any questions to cathy.parsons@mnps.org.