

## Honors English IV - Summer Reading Assignment

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All Honors English IV and AP Literature students will read:

### ***The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**

Annotation from Ingram Book Distributors: A man and his young son traverse a blasted American landscape, covered with the ashes of the late world. The man can still remember the time before but not the boy. There is nothing for them except survival, and the precious last vestiges of their own humanity. At once brutal and tender, despairing and hopeful, spare of language and profoundly moving, *The Road* is a fierce and haunting meditation on the tenuous divide between civilization and savagery, and the essential sometime terrifying power of filial love.

All Honors English IV students will **also** read:

### ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey**

Annotation from Ingram Book Distributors: Boisterous, ribald, and ultimately shattering, Kesey's work is the seminal novel of the 1960s that has left an indelible mark on literature. Here is the unforgettable story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, especially the tyrannical Big Nurse Ratched and Randle Patrick McMurphy, the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her.

And

### ***Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton**

Annotation from Ingram Book Distributors: She has as much business keeping a stray dog as she would walking across Egypt-which not so incidentally is the title of her favorite hymn. She's Mattie Riggsbee, an independent, strong-minded senior citizen who, at seventy-eight, might be slowing down just a bit. When teenage delinquent Wesley Benfield drops in on her life, he is even less likely a companion than the stray dog. But, of course, the dog never tasted her mouth-watering pound cake. Wise and witty, down-home and real, *Walking Across Egypt* is a book for everyone.

On the second day of school, a test will be given on these **three required novels**. On this **same day**, **three journals** responding to the **three** novels will be collected.

**Please follow these instructions on this page *and* the back for writing your journals:**

- Minimum **five** full typed pages double-spaced in 12 point type for each journal
- Provide a cover sheet with a real title and The HFA honor code for each journal.
- Journals must reflect an understanding of the complete novel.
- There should be **NO** plot summary!
- Choose 10 passages/quotations from each novel that you found particularly powerful. These should be taken from the entire novel and submitted in chronological order. Be sure to quote the passage accurately and document the page number.
- After each passage, discuss its significance to the overall meaning of the novel as it relates to character development, setting, symbolism, theme, and style.
- Provide active personal engagement! These journals will be our first means of finding out about you and your reading and writing skills. Make sure your voice is clearly evident throughout the journals. Question, comment, argue, praise, and connect with intellectual energy. Be interesting and provocative. Tell us something we don't know about these novels.

- Comparative analysis- make plentiful and meaningful connections between the three novels and other literary works you have read.
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was made into an Oscar winning film starring Jack Nicholson. *Walking Across Egypt* was also made into a film and *The Road* has been filmed but has not yet been released. Reminder- films are very rarely exactly like the books. It is easy to tell when a student is writing about the film rather than the book. We do encourage you, however, to view these films and add a section in your journal that compares and contrast them to the books.

**Your grade will be determined using the above criteria.**

**Do not use outside sources or aids! We have access to all these and we can easily discern their use in a student's written work.**

**Important Notes:**

- \* The grades generated by the summer reading will constitute the majority of the first nine weeks.
- \* Waiting until the last minute to fulfill the requirements almost always leads to frustration and less than quality work.

**These are amazing books! Give them the time they deserve!**