

NB: When buying books for the school year, students must purchase the Davis-Kidd editions of the required novels so that the whole class has the same edition when studying the book.

The Harpeth Hall School
Summer Reading 2009-2010
English IV: American Literature

Requirements For English II and English II Honors:

- *What the World Eats* by Faith D'Aluisio and Peter Menzel. Seniors are required to read this book and complete the project described for the **All-School Read**.
- **Sign up for one Teacher-Sponsored book.** Choose one (1). Be prepared to discuss the book in Harkness style, in a small group, on the first day of school. A complete list of the possible books one might sign up to read can be found on the Harpeth Hall web site. No changes in your selection can be made after June 15. New students should contact Ms. Girgus, (girgus@harpethhall.org or 383-1751) or Ms. Donna Clark, (dclark@harpethhall.org) when they have made their choice. If a student wishes to discuss which choice to make, she should feel free to get in touch with Ms. Girgus.
- **Read *The Scarlet Letter* and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.**
- *Scarlett Letter* takes place in New England in the 17th century while *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* is set in Savannah in the 1980s. As you read, mark three quotations in each novel that reflect the tone, culture and essence of the New England and Savannah societies. Your quotations must have page numbers in parentheses as well as short but pithy comments that indicate why you thought the quotation worth selecting.
- **Write an essay that explores how these societies condemn and celebrate Hester and Jim Williams. You might consider how each of these characters is put on trial, both literally and figuratively. Consider what they are really being tried for and why they are being convicted.**

We strongly suggest that you write this essay on your own. However, if you use an outside source, it must be cited using Noodletools. **Failure to do so will be considered a breach of the honor code and treated as such.**

The written work is due on the first full day of class. At this time you will be asked to pledge that you have completed all assignments.

Continued.... AP requirements follow

AP English IV

NB: When buying books for the school year, students must purchase the Davis-Kidd editions of the required novels so that the whole class has the same edition when studying the book.

Requirements For English IV AP

1. ***What the World Eats*** by Faith D’Aluisio and Peter Menzel. AP senior students are required to read this book and complete the project described for the **All-School Read**.
2. **Sign up for one Teacher-Sponsored book.** Choose one (1). Be prepared to discuss the book in Harkness style, in a small group, on the first day of school. A complete list of the possible books one might sign up to read can be found on the Harpeth Hall web site. No changes in your selection can be made after June 15. [New students should contact Ms. Girgus, \(girgus@harpethhall.org or 383-1751\)](mailto:girgus@harpethhall.org) or [Ms. Donna Clark, \(dclark@harpethhall.org\)](mailto:dclark@harpethhall.org) when they have made their choice. If a student wishes to discuss which choice to make, she should feel free to get in touch with Ms. Girgus.
3. **AP students should read *Daisy Miller* by Henry James, *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton and *The Sheltering Sky* by Paul Bowles.**
4. **Essay:** As an AP English literature student, the first impression that you make as a writer is an important one, so put forth your best effort as you compose your summer reading essay.

The paper will be rigorously assessed. Its effectiveness depends upon the quality of the thesis, the degree to which that thesis is persuasively supported, and the deftness of the writer’s prose. **You will write 4 to 6 pages of text, and you should include at least one outside critical voice for each novel. Be sure to follow MLA form (including a properly formatted Works Cited page). Please use 12 point Calibri, double-spaced, as your font.**

At the heart of the three novels above, the reader looks on as at least one of the chief characters has a life-altering encounter with *foreignness*, with “*the other*.” Such encounters frequently involve some form of sexual tension and a countervailing force of social constraint.

“Otherness”—a sense of the remote, the exotic, the strangely new, or the troublingly different—can be manifold within a given work. For instance, in James’s novella, Winterbourne (an expatriate American) finds the American tourist Daisy Miller to be disconcertingly alluring but *different*. He is at once drawn to and repelled by her. Likewise, the expatriate American set (represented primarily by Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Walker) simultaneously spurns the newly rich Millers as well as the Italian Giovanelli while still socializing with the former and residing in the country of the latter. Go figure.

You will write a paper in which you answer the following question:

What recipe do these three authors offer about how human beings should best deal with “the other”—that which can be at once *alluringly* and *troublingly different* from us?

You may find that each author shares a similar view, or you may discover that their views differ markedly. You even may determine that “the other” is not merely an external entity (a foreign person or culture, a foreign topography) but also an internal, psychological one.

Write a compelling 4-6 page essay (double-spaced, typed) in which you wrestle with the question above.

You will find that your instructor places significant value on this summer reading essay, particularly as it raises questions that we will return to throughout the year. Essays will be rewarded if they are clearly and simply organized, deftly supported with evidence from both texts, and brimming with original insights and novel phrasings. Above all, you should advance a clear and tenable main idea—a thesis that gets at the heart of the matter.